

**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

ID No.	Section Name/Topic	Section /Table/ Figure No.	Page No.	Reviewer Comment No.	Comment Text	Category	Response/Proposed Path Forward	EPA Comment (12/16/19)
1	General	--	--	G.1	<p><b>Selection of Contaminants for In-Depth Evaluation:</b> In the revised RI report, total polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (TPAHs), total polychlorinated biphenyls (TPCBs), and copper (Cu) are discussed in detail for multiple site media. However, other site contaminants, their properties, and their spatial distribution across various media were not discussed in similar detail, as previously requested by EPA.</p> <p>Several previous EPA comments suggested the revised RI report should include detailed evaluation and discussion of additional contaminants beyond TPAHs, TPCBs, and Cu. This topic was discussed with EPA and other stakeholders during a meeting held on December 7, 2017. As a path forward, it was agreed that the draft RI report would be revised according to the approach outlined during the December 7, 2017 meeting. The primary elements of that path forward included expanding Section 4.1.2 Selection of Contaminants for In-Depth Evaluation in the revised RI report or adding an appendix to discuss additional potential risk contributors and the similarities and differences in physicochemical properties and spatial distribution of those contaminants with the three primary contaminants (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons [PAHs], polychlorinated biphenyls [PCBs], and Cu) that were the focus of the draft RI report.</p> <p>Section 4.1.2 of the revised RI indicates that 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin (2,3,78-TCDD) and dieldrin have similar properties in surface sediment (i.e., both are bioaccumulative and have partitioning characteristics similar to PCBs) and that their distribution in surface sediment is similar to the distribution of PAHs, PCBs, and Cu. However, the revised RI report does not provide similar discussions of the 2,3,7,8-TCDD or dieldrin distribution in other site media, nor does it discuss the properties and distributions of the other contaminants identified by EPA for inclusion in the revised RI. Add detailed discussion of the properties and distribution of the additional contaminants identified by EPA in all relevant site media, including subsurface sediment, porewater, native groundwater, and surface water. The discussion should include further evaluation to support whether the distribution of the additional contaminants are co-located with the primary contaminants (PAHs, PCBs, and Cu).</p> <p>This approach is consistent with EPA guidance on preparing RI/FS reports under CERCLA and is necessary for this site. Before focusing in on the primary contaminants driving the risks at this Site, the RI must determine the nature and extent of contamination, including the types of contamination present, the concentrations and the distribution through all media. This an inclusive part of the RI report, and then the risk assessments help to focus the risk management decisions on those contaminants that are present at concentrations that pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment. The additional evaluation required by this comment is not expected to change the conclusions of the RI report in a significant way, but that does not mean that the additional evaluation can be ignored. This is a necessary step for any Superfund site.</p>	Agree	As per the meeting held with USEPA on October 23, 2019, the RI Report will be revised in Section 4.1.2 to: 1) provide a broader discussion of the various groups of chemicals measured and detected in each of the sampled media and part of the RI field investigations; and 2) summarize the risk assessment screening processes that refined the chemical list to the subset that is focused on in the RI Report (i.e., focus on TPAH, TPCB, and Cu, with additional information for the following “secondary” chemicals: 2,3,7,8-TCDD, lead, and dieldrin). Rather than duplicate text, this added discussion will be a summary that references other sections of the document. Furthermore, consistent with the section on surface sediment, presentations and discussions of data (as available) for 2,3,7,8-TCDD, lead, and dieldrin will be added to the sections for all other media presented in Section 4 (i.e., subsurface sediment, native material, sediment traps, surface water, porewater, groundwater, tissue, and air). Finally, the text indicating that the similarity in spatial patterns and properties of the “secondary” chemicals (2,3,7,8-TCDD, lead, and dieldrin) as compared to TPAH, TPCB, and Cu will be retained and expanded to discuss media beyond surface sediment, so as to provide rationale for not presenting information on loads (Section 5) and fate and transport (Section 6) for 2,3,7,8-TCDD, lead, and dieldrin.	The response is acceptable.

Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix

ID No.	Section Name/Topic	Section /Table/ Figure No.	Page No.	Reviewer Comment No.	Comment Text	Category	Response/Proposed Path Forward	EPA Comment (12/16/19)
2	General	--	--	G.2	<p><b>Background:</b> There are numerous references to background, site-specific background, regional background, and urban background in the Executive Summary and throughout the RI report. For example, the RI concludes that contaminant concentrations in surface sediment and surface water indicate conditions in Creek Mile (CM) 0–2 are at (or near) background. References to the various types of background discussed in the revised RI report have not been defined, and site-specific background concentrations have not yet been determined. Remove the terms background (except for the air medium), site-specific background, regional background, urban background, background reference and any similar term from the RI report. EPA is currently drafting a memorandum on the subjects of background and reference areas for Newton Creek that will be distributed to the Newtown Creek Group (NCG) and NYCDEP. This topic will require further discussion after submission of that document.</p>	Clarification	As per the USEPA comment, the resolution of this issue hinges on completion of the memorandum USEPA is developing, including subsequent discussion(s) of that memorandum with the NCG and developing a path forward for revising the final RI Report.	<p>The response is partially acceptable. EPA has reviewed its comment on the subject of background and reference areas with respect to the EPA memorandum titled <i>Consideration of Background and Reference Area Information for the Study Area at the Newtown Creek Superfund Site</i>, dated October 30, 2019. While EPA is open to further discussion, it is EPA’s position that the comment remains valid and is consistent with the EPA’s October 30, 2019 memorandum. EPA maintains that references to site-specific background, regional background, urban background, background reference, and similar terms should be removed from the RI Report. As indicated in EPA’s October 30 memorandum, determining appropriate background concentrations for OU1 is an ongoing process, “Determining appropriate values for background contaminant concentrations for Newtown Creek requires an in-depth analysis, to be performed as part of the OU1 RI/FS. The OU1 RI/FS will use the currently available information about the inputs listed above, and the complex modeling being conducted, along with other factors to develop appropriate values.” In addition, the EPA memorandum specifically indicates that it is inappropriate to use the term “background reference” and also addressed the use of the modifier “urban” with respect to reference areas.</p> <p>As the subject of background for OU1 is developed further during the RI/FS process, specific terminology for background will be developed for use in the FS.</p>

**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

ID No.	Section Name/Topic	Section /Table/ Figure No.	Page No.	Reviewer Comment No.	Comment Text	Category	Response/Proposed Path Forward	EPA Comment (12/16/19)
3	General	--	--	G.3	<b>Feasibility Study (FS) and Risk Management:</b> The RI report includes several statements and or/recommendations regarding the FS and future risk management decisions. For example, the RI concludes that "...the FS should identify and evaluate remedies that include a combination of remedial approaches, reflecting the unique conditions of each reach." The RI should not draw conclusions that are under the purview of the FS or provide statements regarding items to be considered in future risk management decisions. Such statements should be removed from the RI report. Also, references to remedial alternatives or other aspects of the FS should be removed from the RI report.	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.
4	General	--	--	G.4	<b>Lateral Groundwater Discharge Loading:</b> Shallow lateral groundwater-borne contaminant of potential concern (COPC) loadings should not be ruled out solely based on the evidence currently provided in the RI. FS-based contaminant fate and transport (CF&T) modeling will include upward adjustment of the current shallow lateral groundwater-borne COPC loadings until the simulations indicate significant impact on model calibration performance. The approach for setting impact thresholds should be discussed with EPA as part of FS CF&T modeling interactions. Results of the CF&T modeling will be discussed with EPA to determine whether they will be incorporated into the final RI report or presented in the FS	Agree	As discussed with USEPA on October 23, 2019, the RI Report will be revised to more fully acknowledge that the empirical evaluations of lateral groundwater loads using surface water data are qualitative; the available data do not indicate any notable influence of lateral groundwater discharge on surface water quality, but no definitive conclusions can be made based solely on those data. The RI Report will also be revised as needed to indicate that the potential contribution of chemical loads associated with lateral groundwater discharge will be evaluated more quantitatively with the CFT model; the diagnostic simulations planned to evaluate that process in the model (as discussed during the Summer 2019 CFT Modeling Meetings with USEPA and outlined in the August 16 email from Mark Schmidt of USEPA) will be documented in the CFT modeling report and evaluated as necessary in the FS. USEPA confirmed during the October 23, 2019 meeting that no further discussions of this topic were necessary.	The response is acceptable. The results of the CFT modeling of lateral groundwater discharge loading will be incorporated into the CFT modeling report and presented and discussed in the FS Report.

**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

ID No.	Section Name/Topic	Section /Table/ Figure No.	Page No.	Reviewer Comment No.	Comment Text	Category	Response/Proposed Path Forward	EPA Comment (12/16/19)
5	General	--	--	G.5	<b>Sediment COPC Attribution:</b> In a number of instances, the RI report attributes contaminant concentrations in sediments to combined sewer overflows (CSOs) and municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) using proximity arguments while not acknowledging the contribution of other current and historical sources to sediment contaminant concentrations. The RI report also indicates that due to the long history of releases in the creek and the dynamic nature of the creek causing the mixing of contaminants from various sources, contaminant concentrations in sediments cannot be attributed to proximate upland sources. If this is true for upland sources (current and historical), it should also be true for point sources at various locations. There are many instances in the RI report where contaminants in sediment are attributed to CSO and MS4 discharges without acknowledging that other sources (including the East River, groundwater discharge, historical spills, discharges, etc.) also likely contribute to the contaminant concentrations in sediment proximate to discharge locations. These instances are noted in the specific comments; however, the entire RI report should be reviewed and revised to clarify that contaminant concentrations measured in sediments reflect contributions from multiple sources.	Disagree	The NCG will review the instances noted in specific comments and incorporate changes where warranted. However, in general, the data and information supporting a linkage between CSO and MS4 discharges and specific areas of contamination are strong in many instances (e.g., sediment mounds proximate to large CSO discharges; New York City has acknowledged that specific areas are “CSO mounds” )and should be acknowledged.	The response is partially acceptable. In instances where there is information that supports a linkage between CSO and MS4 discharges and specific areas of sediment contamination, that information must be presented to support the linkage. However, even if a linkage can be established, due to the dynamic nature of the creek and the widespread impact of other sources including the East River, historical releases, and ongoing discharges other than CSOs and MS4S, attribution of sediment contamination solely to CSOs and MS4s should not be made. This should be made clear in the text of the RI report.
6	General	--	--	G.6	<b>Nonaqueous phase liquid (NAPL) Seeps:</b> In footnote 156, the RI acknowledges that NAPL seeps have been observed near bulkheads and spills and that other discharges have occurred at the creek. However, as indicated in footnote 179, the RI report states that the observed seeps are not considered “primary sources” of contamination because they occur in limited spatial and/or temporal scales. This RI characterization of seeps is done without benefit of any data on the chemical characteristics, volume, or frequency of the seeps. The seeps represent a potential ongoing source of contamination to the creek and should be discussed in the report. Move the information in footnotes 156 and 179 into the text of the report. Also, revise the text to acknowledge that there is limited information available to assess the magnitude or impact of the seeps as a potential ongoing source of contamination to the creek. In the absence of such information, seeps and lateral discharges representing potential localized sources will have to be considered during the FS.	Agree	Based on discussion with USEPA on October 17, 2019, the NCG will address this comment by moving the footnotes into the text. As requested by USEPA during the October 17 call, the RI will note the seeps observed by others as potential sources and will further note that the FS will consider their significance relative to remedy effectiveness. With regard to the magnitude or impact of the seeps as ongoing sources, the RI text will be expanded to consider other available lines of evidence (e.g., frequency of observations, and nearby sediment and surface water data) which may provide more insights into the significance of the seeps.	The response is partially acceptable. The portion of the response related to moving the footnotes to the text and the proposed discussion is acceptable.  Regarding the expansion of the RI text to include other lines of evidence related to the significance of the seeps as potential sources, expanding the text to include field observations or other data relevant to NAPL seeps would improve the discussion and should be included. However, EPA is not aware of any systematic observations or testing of the seeps that would describe their frequency, magnitude, or chemical characteristics. The limitations of the data related to NAPL seeps must be acknowledged in the text.
7	General	--	--	G.7	<b>Potential Unidentified Sources:</b> EPA notes that given the multiple COPC sources to the site and despite the various sampling programs undertaken, the potential exists, as it does for all sites, for some sources to remain unidentified following RI/FS activities. As pre-design investigation data are collected and compared to RI/FS datasets, any significant differences between the RI/FS and pre-design investigation datasets will be identified. If this data difference indicates a previously unknown but significant COPC source to the site, it is EPA’s expectation that actions to address this source(s) will be incorporated into the remedial design.	Agree	The RI will acknowledge that, notwithstanding the extensive dataset compiled during the RI, future investigations undertaken within the boundaries of the Study Area may indicate as yet unidentified sources that will need to be considered as remedial designs move forward.	The response is acceptable.

**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

ID No.	Section Name/Topic	Section /Table/ Figure No.	Page No.	Reviewer Comment No.	Comment Text	Category	Response/Proposed Path Forward	EPA Comment (12/16/19)
8	General	--	--	G.8	<b>Discussion of Sheens and NAPL:</b> Revise the RI to discuss the nature and extent of sheens in various site media with equal weight as to how NAPL is discussed. While Section 4.6 and its associated figures do present sheen distributions/observations, other portions of the revised RI do not discuss sheens equally with NAPL. For example, Executive Summary Page ES-12 discusses NAPL distributions in subsurface sediments of CM 2+ and the tributaries. However, the Executive Summary text does not discuss the distribution of sheens observed in subsurface sediments, as evidenced by Figure 4-97. As another example, Section 6.4.4.2 Sources of Chemicals to the Surface Sediment states as follows: “Other potential sources of contaminants to the surface sediment include NAPL transport processes, including NAPL migration associated with advection and gas ebullition. NAPL transport processes are discussed in Section 6.4.7, and further detail on gas ebullition is presented in Section 2.3 of Appendix D.” Unless the chemical compositions of sheens are known, and as sheens are a potential indicator of NAPL, subsurface sediment sheens should also be acknowledged as a potential source of contaminants to the surface sediment.	Agree	The text referenced in the comment in the Executive Summary will be revised to discuss the distribution of sheen as requested. As discussed with USEPA on October 17, 2019, similar text in other sections of the RI Report discussing the nature and extent of sheen and NAPL in general terms will be revised similarly (e.g., Sections 4.6, 8, and 9, and specific sections of Appendix C referenced in subsequent comments). However, text focused on a specific NAPL condition or evaluation, such as text specific to discussion of Category 2/3 NAPL (i.e., visual observations of NAPL-coated and NAPL-saturated sediment/native material, and shake test layer results) extent and delineation will not be revised to incorporate discussion of sheen. The extent to which sheens are a potential source of contaminants to surface sediment is accounted for by subsurface sediment and porewater chemical data; samples were collected over intervals where sheens were reported, and the concentrations quantify the mass of chemicals in the sheen-containing intervals. Sections 6 and 8 of the RI Report will be revised to reflect this.	The response is partially acceptable. EPA agrees that the Phase 2 NAPL dataset should be the primary basis for the NAPL evaluation and conclusions about NAPL nature and extent. However, the purpose of the RI is to characterize the site. Discussion of observed sheens should be included in the RI as a line of evidence to support understanding of sheen distribution at the site. Revise the document accordingly.
9	General	--	--	G.9	<b>Text boxes:</b> Remove all of the text boxes from the RI report. The key findings in the text boxes oversimplify and overgeneralize the results and findings of the RI report. The executive summary provides a high-level summary of the RI report findings and conclusions.	Disagree	The NCG believes that the text boxes provide a useful summary for each section in the RI Report and these summaries are useful for the casual reader.	The response is not acceptable. Per EPA’s comments on the Draft RI Report and Revised RI Report, remove the text boxes from the report.
10	General	--	--	G.10	<b>References to EPA Direction:</b> The phrase “as directed by USEPA” is used in many places in the document (e.g., five times in two pages in Section 7). All information within the document could be considered to be EPA-directed. Delete the phrase “as directed by USEPA” throughout the document	Clarification	In previous versions of the RI Report and risk assessments, USEPA has accepted this language if USEPA formally directed the NCG to include specific language. We will review the instances in the RI Report where the language occurs to ensure this is the case.	The response is partially acceptable. In the BERA, the phrase “as directed by EPA” was used nine times. In all nine instances, it was used to describe the hierarchy of SLERA screening benchmarks that EPA directed the NCG to use. Unless the phrase “ as directed by EPA” is being used to refer to the hierarchy of SLERA screening benchmarks, remove all instances from the RI Report.
11	General	--	--	G.11	<b>CSM:</b> The data and information provided in the RI Report were used to develop and refine the current CSM. However, it should be noted that the CSM will continued to be revised and updated as more data and information become available through the RI/FS process.	Agree	Comment noted. The RI Report clearly acknowledges that the CSM will continually be updated (see lead-in paragraph to Section 6, key findings box of Section 8, and first paragraph of Section 8.1). The final report will continue to state this.	The response is acceptable. Remove any text stating that the CSM is complete. Also, see general comment ID no. 9 regarding text boxes.
12	Executive Summary	--	--	ES.G.1	The Executive Summary should be revised to reflect and be consistent with the general and specific comments provided for the entire revised RI report.	Agree	Comment noted. The ES will be revised to be consistent with the resolution of general and specific comments provided for the entire RI Report.	The response is acceptable.

**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

ID No.	Section Name/Topic	Section /Table/ Figure No.	Page No.	Reviewer Comment No.	Comment Text	Category	Response/Proposed Path Forward	EPA Comment (12/16/19)
13	Executive Summary	--	ES-3	ES.S.1	ES-3, Footnote 3 – Footnote should be removed. It is not clear that “the timing of the CSO controls is an important consideration for the Newtown Creek RI/FS.”.	Disagree	The information regarding future CSO controls is an important consideration in understanding site-specific background conditions in Newtown Creek, and for that reason, we believe the footnote is important. That said, the footnote will be revised to place less emphasis on the timing aspect of the controls, relative to the fact that all CSO discharges will not be eliminated.	The response is not acceptable. Remove the footnote from the report.
14	Executive Summary	--	ES-17 to ES-18	ES.S.2	Pages ES-17 to ES-18, Risk and Exposure Pathways, first partial paragraph, second sentence (URI.20): The baseline ecological risk assessment (BERA) discussion of the Study Area states, “At these locations, toxicity test results appear to be confounded by other stressors, consistent with urban environments with large CSO and stormwater discharges.” Revise the sentence to say, “At these locations, toxicity results appear to be confounded by other stressors.” Delete the second part of the sentence as it is not supported by the BERA.	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.
15	Executive Summary	--	ES-20 to ES-21	ES.S.3	Pages ES-20 to ES-21, Key Findings and Conclusions, CM 2+ and tributaries bullets: Both of these bullets end with statements about CSO and MS4 discharges that are not supported. Delete “...but may be influenced by other contaminants common to urban, industrialized waterbodies influenced by large CSO and MS4 discharges.” from both bullets.	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.
16	Introduction	Section 1	11	S1.S.1	Page 11, Section 7 Risk Assessment Summary (URI.34): Revised the sentence as follows: “This section provides a summary of the final BHHRA and BERA...”	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.
17	Program Summary	Section 2.1.2	19	S2.S.1a	Page 19, Section 2.1.2 Phase 1 and Phase 2 Reference Areas:  First paragraph, last sentence: Revise the sentence as follows: “The remaining 10 Phase 1 reference areas were retained to provide data on the bulk surface sediment and surface water characteristics for potential use in developing background conditions.”	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.
18	Program Summary	Section 2.1.2	19	S2.S.1b	Second paragraph, last sentence: Clarify that the four reference areas cited in the bullets were selected to support the baseline human health risk assessment (BHHRA) and BERA.	Agree	The text will be revised as requested but will also note that data collected in these four reference areas were also used to support other components of the RI Report (e.g., wet weather and dry weather surface water chemistry analyses).	The response is acceptable.
19	Program Summary	Section 2.1.5.1	25	S2.S.2	Page 25, Section 2.1.5.1 Caged Bivalves, first sentence: specify which species was used as part of the caged bivalve bioaccumulation study that was conducted in 2014 as part of the BERA.	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.

**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

ID No.	Section Name/Topic	Section /Table/ Figure No.	Page No.	Reviewer Comment No.	Comment Text	Category	Response/Proposed Path Forward	EPA Comment (12/16/19)
20	Program Summary	Section 2.1.7	28	S2.S.3	Page 28, Section 2.1.7 Gas Ebullition, fourth sentence: The text reads as follows: "Sediment, surface water, and porewater samples were collected, and sediment temperature and surface water quality profiles were collected from pilot study stations as described in Sections 2.1.3 and 2.1.4." Clarify if the sediment, surface water, and/or porewater samples were collected as part of the ebullition pilot scale investigation or were collected under separate investigations.	Agree	The text will be revised to clarify that these samples were collected as part of the gas ebullition pilot study.	The response is acceptable.
21	Program Summary	Sections 2.2.1 and 2.2.2	29	S2.S.4	Page 29, Sections 2.2.1 and 2.2.2 Additional Data, second and third sentences: Explain in the text what is meant by minimum data acceptance criteria (MDAC) and activity-specific acceptance criteria.	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.
22	Program Summary	Figures 2-17a through 2-17d	--	S2.S.5	Figures 2-17a through 2-17d: Phase 1 subsurface sediment sample locations (blue half-circle symbol) are not shown or are not visible (obscured by collocated surface sediment samples [blue circle symbol]) on the figures). Add a note to the figure explaining that the Phase 1 surface sediment and subsurface sediment samples are collocated or show the subsurface sample locations on separate figures.	Agree	A note will be added to the figure explaining that the Phase 1 surface sediment and subsurface sediment samples are collocated.	The response is acceptable.
23	Environmental Setting	Section 3	31	S3.S.1	Page 31, Section 3, fifth sentence: This section does not provide a full discussion of the contribution of groundwater discharge to Newtown Creek. The text indicates that only minor amounts of groundwater within recharge areas discharge to the Study Area through seeps. Revise the text to include the contribution of groundwater flow through the creek bed from the surrounding recharge area.	Agree	The text will be revised such that groundwater discharge is not discounted to "minor amounts."	The response is acceptable.
24	Environmental Setting	Section 3.1.1.1	32-33	S3.S.2	Pages 32-33, Section 3.1.1.1 Geology, final sentence in the section: It is stated that fill materials were placed during industrialization of the area and that the fill material types are heterogeneous. Specifically indicate that the fill materials present in the Study Area likely originated both within and outside the Study Area, and reference other portions of the RI report that discuss filling (e.g., Section 3.2 and Section 3.2.6.21).	Agree	The text will be revised accordingly.	The response is acceptable.
25	Environmental Setting	Section 3.1.1.2	34	S3.S.3	Page 34, Section 3.1.1.2 Hydrogeology, second complete paragraph, last sentence: "Therefore, some groundwater originates in the fill and post-glacial deposits but generally discharges to the Study Area through the UGA." This sentence implies that discharge through the intertidal zone is negligible. Revise the text as follows: "Therefore, groundwater that originates in the fill and post-glacial deposits either discharges laterally directly into the Study Area or flows down into the UGA before discharging into the Study Area."	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.

**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

ID No.	Section Name/Topic	Section /Table/ Figure No.	Page No.	Reviewer Comment No.	Comment Text	Category	Response/Proposed Path Forward	EPA Comment (12/16/19)
26	Environmental Setting	Section 3.1.4	38	S3.S.4	Page 38, Section 3.1.4 Hydrodynamics, first full paragraph, fourth sentence: The text states that “Groundwater inflow...does not significantly affect hydrodynamic processes...based on initial diagnostic testing with the hydrodynamic model.” Since the hydrodynamic model is considered to be nearly finalized at this point and if the conclusion stated in the referenced sentence still holds true, delete the word “initial” from this sentence.	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.
27	Environmental Setting	Section 3.1.5	39	S3.S.5a	Page 39, Section 3.1.5 Water Quality:  Second paragraph: Based on salinity profiles in Section 4.7, salinity measurements during wet weather in the tributaries (Dutch Kills, Maspeth Creek, East Branch, and English Kills) are more variable than those in the main stem of the Creek (CM 0–1 and CM 1–2). Revise the text to reflect the spatial variability in salinity measurements in the main stem versus the tributaries.	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.
28	Environmental Setting	Section 3.1.5	39	S3.S.5b	Last paragraph, third sentence: Include industrial discharges along with CSOs, wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) treated effluent, stormwater (including overland flow), the East River, and groundwater as factors affecting the water quality in Newtown Creek. Also, the qualifier “to a lesser extent” before groundwater should be removed here and throughout the report until the CF&T modeling of lateral groundwater discharge loading is done.	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.
29	Environmental Setting	Section 3.1.6	40	S3.S.6	Page 40, Section 3.1.6 Sediment Transport, last complete sentence: As commented previously by EPA on the 2016 draft RI report and as revised in the 2019 version of Attachment G-G, temporal changes in net sedimentation rate (NSRs) are also a result of changes in localized trapping efficiency. Revise the text to also mention the impact of trapping efficiency on temporal change in NSRs.	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable
30	Environmental Setting	Section 3.2	46	S3.S.7	Page 46, Section 3.2 Human Use, first paragraph, last sentence and Pages 99-100, Section 3.2.6.21 Solid Waste Disposal and Landfilling: It is noted that adjacent marshes were filled. If known, state what types of materials these marshes were filled with and the origin of that fill material (source type and source location with respect to inside and/or outside the Study Area). Notably, Section 3.2.6.21 suggests that marshes were filled with all manner of municipal, commercial, and industrial wastes. State that the fill materials likely originated both within and outside the Study Area.	Agree	The text will be modified as suggested; however, the NCG believes it would be time-consuming to determine with certainty the source of the fill materials. On that basis, the text will also recognize the uncertainty associated with estimating with any precision the source of the materials.	The response is acceptable.
31	Environmental Setting	Section 3.2.4	56	S3.S.8	Page 56, Section 3.2.4 Navigation Channel and Dredging History (URI.92): This comment relates to prior comment URI.92, for which the NCG response is partially acceptable. The first sentence of the last paragraph on this page indicates that bathymetric surveys were conducted between 1991 and 2015 and references Section 3.1.3. Section 3.1.3 indicates that bathymetric surveys were conducted between 1991 and 2016. Revise the text to resolve the inconsistency in date ranges for the bathymetric surveys.	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.



**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

ID No.	Section Name/Topic	Section /Table/ Figure No.	Page No.	Reviewer Comment No.	Comment Text	Category	Response/Proposed Path Forward	EPA Comment (12/16/19)
32	Environmental Setting	Section 3.2.6.15.2	84-85	S3.S.9	Pages 84-85, Section 3.2.6.15.2 Contaminants Associated with Petroleum Refining and Bulk Storage: Identify NAPL as likely to be associated with these industries.	Agree	Text will be revised to indicate that under certain circumstances, NAPL may be associated with these industries.	The response is acceptable.
33	Environmental Setting	Section 3.2.9	124	S3.S.10	Page 124, Section 3.2.9 Surface Water Classification, Fish Advisories, and Public Health Assessment, second paragraph, third sentence: The text states that “Due primarily to CSO discharges, much of Newtown Creek and the tributaries consistently do not meet the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Class SD fish survival standard for DO concentration (i.e., never less than 3 mg/L).” Delete the phrase “Due primarily to CSO discharges” or provide supporting evidence in the text that Newtown Creek and its tributaries do not meet the NYSDEC Class SD fish survival standard for dissolved oxygen (DO) concentration due primarily to CSO discharges.	Disagree	The approved LTCP for Newtown Creek acknowledges that CSO discharges result in DO levels that do not meet the Class SD standard. This is the primary reason, in addition to pathogens, that the State of New York is requiring that discharges from CSOs in Newtown Creek be reduced to acceptable levels. Table 6-3 of the approved LTCP shows that 60% of baseline biological oxygen demand from the creek is from CSOs, with another 20% coming from the treated WWTP effluent discharged at Whale Creek.	The response is acceptable. Incorporate the information in the response in the RI Report.
34	Environmental Setting	Section 3.2.9	125	S3.S.11a	Page 125, Section 3.2.9 Surface Water Classification, Fish Advisories, and Public Health Assessment:  First full paragraph, first sentence: State the effective date of the recent amendments by NYSDEC to Part 701.14 for Class SD waters.	Agree	The requested Information will be inserted.	The response is acceptable.
35	Environmental Setting	Section 3.2.9	125	S3.S.11b	First full paragraph, fifth sentence: The text states that New York City Department of Environmental Protection’s (NYCDEP’s) Waterbody/Watershed Facility Plan Report does not evaluate the feasibility of meeting the total coliform and fecal coliform criteria (NYCDEP 2011a). The relevance of citing this 2011 plan is not clear, particularly in reference to meeting recent amendments to NYSDEC Part 701.14. The more recent NYCDEP Long Term Control Plan for Newtown Creek, dated June 2017, addresses control of total and fecal coliforms and should be referenced in the text.	Agree	The text will be revised to include reference to the 2017 LTCP in relationship to bacteria standards.	The response is acceptable.
36	Environmental Setting	Section 3.2.11	133	S3.S.12	Page 133, Section 3.2.11 Historical Spills, first sentence of the first full paragraph: The text indicates that remedial efforts “may have been installed due to historical spills at various facilities.” These remedial efforts clearly have been installed and clearly were installed to address contamination resulting from releases to the environment. Reword this sentence to read “Other remedial efforts in the Newtown Creek groundwater recharge area that have been installed to address contamination potentially resulting from historical spills include...” In the final sentence of this same paragraph, specify that it is unlikely that the list of sites and remediation systems is an exhaustive list of spills/releases. Consider referencing the data applicability report (DAR), which includes a comprehensive evaluation of historical spills and remediation actions.	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.
37	Environmental Setting	Section 3.2.11	133-134	S3.S.13	Pages 133-134, Section 3.2.11 Historical Spills (URI.148): This comment relates to prior comment URI.148, for which the response is partially acceptable. In the bullet for Motiva Brooklyn Terminal, specify the nature and source of the NAPL material for which remediation was implemented.	Agree	Information on the nature and source of the NAPL material for which remediation was implemented will be included if it can be found.	The response is acceptable. If the information cannot be found, it should be noted in the RI Report.

**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

ID No.	Section Name/Topic	Section /Table/ Figure No.	Page No.	Reviewer Comment No.	Comment Text	Category	Response/Proposed Path Forward	EPA Comment (12/16/19)
38	Environmental Setting	Section 3.2.11	134	S3.S.14	Page 134, Section 3.2.11 Historical Spills (URI.148): This comment relates to prior comment URI.148, for which the response is partially acceptable. In the bullet for the Former Laurel Hill Site, specify the nature and source of the groundwater contamination for which remediation was implemented.	Agree	Text regarding the nature and source of the groundwater contamination for which remediation was implemented at the Former Laurel Hill Site (DAR No. 16) will be added with a similar level of detail to that currently provided for other historical spill sites discussed in Section 3.2.11.	The response is acceptable.
39	Environmental Setting	Section 3.2.11	134-135	S3.S.15	Pages 134-135, Section 3.2.11 Historical Spills (URI.148): This comment relates to prior comment URI.148, for which the response is partially acceptable. In the bullet for Waste Management of NY/Steel Equities and for Malu Properties/Former Ditmas Oil/Former Gulf Oil, specify the nature and source of the material for which remediation was implemented.	Agree	Information on the nature and source of the NAPL material for which remediation was implemented will be included if it can be found.	The response is acceptable. If the information cannot be found, it should be noted in the RI Report.
40	Nature and Extent of Contamination	General	--	S4.G.1	A number of new figures have been produced to support the discussion in Section 4. Review the figures to ensure that all legend and footnote descriptions are pertinent and accurate as it appears that figures used as templates to create the new figures may have contained legend entries and footnotes that are not relevant but were preserved.	Agree/Clarification	Figures will be reviewed as suggested and notes/legends will be revised as necessary. However, if USEPA has identified specific figures to which this comment pertains, the NCG requests that a list of such figures be provided.	The response is partially acceptable. EPA expects that a quality review of the RI figures should be done to ensure that footnote/legend information provided on any figure is relevant to that figure and that extraneous footnote/legend information not pertinent to a figure is not provided for that figure. As such, EPA will not provide an exhaustive list of the instances where those types of issues occur. As examples, Figures 4-5 and 4-6 contain a footnote that describes carets, but there are no carets on the figures, while Figure 4-10b contains a caret and value with no footnote explaining the meaning of the caret and value.

**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

ID No.	Section Name/Topic	Section /Table/ Figure No.	Page No.	Reviewer Comment No.	Comment Text	Category	Response/Proposed Path Forward	EPA Comment (12/16/19)
41	Nature and Extent of Contamination	General	--	S4.G.2	The RI indicates that the partitioning of organic COPCs could be represented using an alternative approach that would result in estimates of groundwater-borne COPC loadings two to six times larger than presented. Therefore, the RI should include presentation of the higher possible loadings, and simulation of vertically upward groundwater-borne COPC loadings during the FS CF&T modeling should incorporate those values. The range of groundwater-borne COPC loading factors now estimated in RI should be discussed with EPA prior to the CF&T modeling. Results of the CF&T modeling will be discussed with EPA to determine whether they will be incorporated into the final RI report or presented in the FS.	Agree/Clarification	<p>The final RI Report will include presentation of the higher possible loadings as a range of values in Sections 5 and 6 (as well as Appendix F).</p> <p>With respect to the CFT model, the NCG would like to clarify that the range of groundwater concentrations and loadings was already discussed with USEPA during the 2019 CFT modeling meetings, and consistent with USEPA's recommendation (e.g., a July 10, 2019 email from Anne Rosenblatt), the alternate approach referenced in this comment is indeed being used in the CFT model (and comparisons across methods will be evaluated through diagnostic testing as appropriate).</p> <p>Furthermore, the NCG would like clarification from USEPA with respect to the last sentence of the comment, which suggests a different timing between the CFT model report and the final RI Report than that which is included in the current project schedule. During the October 23, 2019 meeting with USEPA, the agency confirmed no additional meetings to discuss the use of the CFT model to evaluate lateral groundwater loads were needed, and that those evaluations can be documented in the CFT Modeling Report and in the FS. Is this issue to be handled the same way, or does USEPA envision something different?</p>	The response is acceptable. See comment on the response to comment ID no. 4.
42	Nature and Extent of Contamination	General	--	S4.G.3	At locations with vertically nested groundwater monitoring points, values of salinity in groundwater/porewater sampling that are lower than the prevailing Study Area water column salinity are an indication that some amount of fresh groundwater is present. This should be considered and discussed in the report sections that evaluate vertical groundwater/porewater seepage directions.	Agree	A comparison of salinity profiles to estimated net seepage will be made, where applicable, and discussion will be added to the RI Report. However, it should be noted that lower salinity values in the native material do not necessarily indicate upward groundwater seepage, but instead indicate mixing of saline surface water with fresh groundwater beneath the Study Area.	The response is partially acceptable. Explain the conditions under which mixing of saline surface water with fresh groundwater does not also include upward discharge of groundwater through seepage.

**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

ID No.	Section Name/Topic	Section /Table/ Figure No.	Page No.	Reviewer Comment No.	Comment Text	Category	Response/Proposed Path Forward	EPA Comment (12/16/19)
43	Nature and Extent of Contamination	General	--	S4.G.4	Discrepancies between Tier 1 groundwater balance estimates and the results of Tier 3 should be resolved as should Tier 3 segment-to-segment discrepancies in back-calculated net recharge rates and aquifer transmissivity estimates. The variations in back-calculated net recharge rates need to be justified and resolved.	Clarification	<p>The NCG requests clarification from USEPA on what is meant by “resolved” and “resolved and justified.”</p> <p>As presented in Section 7 of Appendix F (the Groundwater Evaluation) of the RI Report, a range of Tier 1 inputs was evaluated, including two scenarios (sensitivity analyses 3 and 5) where the net discharge to the Study Area matches that from Tier 3. In addition, the following is stated in the USEPA-approved MAM2: “The Tier 1 water balance will produce an estimated range of total groundwater discharge to the Study Area. Given the scale, complexity, and uncertainties inherent in the regional water balance, the Tier 1 results will be considered a first-order approximation only.” The NCG believes the current Tier 1 model has served that purpose. With regard to variations in back-calculated net recharge rates and transmissivity values, similarity from one segment group to the next should not be expected given the complex environment, including geology, land cover, and infrastructure. As shown in Figure F3-16 and Tables F3-9, F3-12, F3-14, and F5-14, measured hydraulic conductivity values for the UGA vary by orders of magnitude, and the average Tier 3 calculated hydraulic conductivity is similar to that from other studies (see Table F5-14). Additionally, the back-calculated equivalent recharge rates do not solely account for recharge from precipitation, but also include artificial returns, losses to sewer pipes, and dewatering, all of which can differ greatly from segment to segment. All of these factors, combined with the uncertainty regarding the exact size and shape of upland segment group areas, contribute to the observed differences between upland segment group “recharge” and transmissivity estimates.</p>	The response is partially acceptable. Incorporate this response into the main RI Report and Appendix F so that the discrepancies from Segment to Segment are better explained and justified. The information in the response should be reflected in the RI Report. Although specific explanations of the most significant Tier 3 Segment-to-Segment discrepancies would help, the FS CFT modeling will be relied upon for ensuring that groundwater seepage based COC loadings to the Study Area are appropriately accounted for.
44	Nature and Extent of Contamination	General	--	S4.G.5	The revised RI includes a more expansive discussion of sheens; however, excluding discussion of sheens where NAPL assessments are discussed is not acceptable. For example, the first sentence on Page 6, Section 1.3 states that “NAPL was not observed in Dutch Kills or Whale Creek sediment” but fails to mention that sheens were observed in both tributaries. Discussions of NAPL distribution in the report should also include discussion of sheen distribution. Revise the document accordingly.	Agree/Clarification	<p>See response to Comment ID No. 8.</p> <p>With regard to the Section 1.3 sentence referenced in the comment, the text will be revised to note if sheen was observed in areas where NAPL was not observed.</p>	The response is partially acceptable. Sheens should be noted regardless of NAPL observation to support a full understanding of sheen distribution at the site.

**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

ID No.	Section Name/Topic	Section /Table/ Figure No.	Page No.	Reviewer Comment No.	Comment Text	Category	Response/Proposed Path Forward	EPA Comment (12/16/19)
45	Nature and Extent of Contamination	Section 4.1	137	S4.S.1	Page 137, Section 4.1, footnote 57, last sentence (URI.153, URI.154, URI.155, URI.156): The revisions made in the revised RI report based on EPA comments on the draft RI report are partially acceptable. Remove the portion of the last sentence starting with "...as wells as pathogens..." here, and remove any pathogen discussion from the document. Pathogens are not evaluated in the RI report or in the BHHRA or BERA reports.	Disagree	Although the USEPA-approved BHHRA does not quantitatively evaluate risks associated with exposure to pathogens, BHHRA Sections 7.2.11 and 7.5 discuss the potential for underestimating risks to human health for a number of exposure pathways where exposure to pathogens in surface water is possible. The footnote will be revised to clarify the way in which pathogens are mentioned.	The response is not acceptable. Remove all references to pathogens from the RI Report.
46	Nature and Extent of Contamination	Section 4.1.2	138	S4.S.2	Page 138, Section 4.1.2 Selection of Contaminants for In-Depth Evaluation: In the revised RI report, dioxin/furans, lead, and dieldrin are discussed in detail for the surface sediment medium but are not discussed in other site media. Revise the document per revised RI report General Comment No. 1.	Clarification	See response to Comment ID No. 1.	The response is acceptable. See comment on the response to comment ID no. 1.
47	Nature and Extent of Contamination	Section 4.1.2	140	S4.S.3	Page 140, Section 4.1.2 Selection of Contaminants for In-Depth Evaluation, first sentence: Dioxin/furans also pose a risk to human health, are primary risk drivers for the site, and should be discussed as primary risk drivers in the RI. See General Comment No. 1.	Clarification	See response to Comment ID No. 1.	The response is acceptable. See comment on the response to comment ID no. 1.
48	Nature and Extent of Contamination	Section 4.1.3.1	141	S4.S.4	Page 141, Section 4.1.3.1 Subsurface Dataset: There appears to be a discrepancy between footnote 62 and Figure 4-1. Footnote 62 indicates that the nondetects for Aroclors and PCB congeners were set to the method detection limit and TPCBs were calculated using the Kaplan-Meier method, whereas Figure 4-1 indicates (in the footnote) that TPCBs in the regression analysis are all detect values. Explain this apparent discrepancy, and if needed, revise the text and/or Figure 4-1 accordingly.	Agree	The footnote and figure notes will be revised to clarify the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The note in Figure 4-1 states that only detect TPCB values are shown, indicating that non-detect TPCBs were excluded when calculating the correlation between TPCB congener and TPCB Aroclor.</li> <li>Footnote 62 is referring to the TPCB values in the combined single dataset for TPCB, which is a combination of TPCB Aroclor*1.75, based on the correlation, and TPCB congener. The Kaplan-Meier method was used to treat non-detect individual congeners or Aroclors when summing the individual PCBs to calculate TPCB. If TPCB is non-detect, TPCB was then set to the MDL in the combined dataset.</li> </ul>	The response is acceptable.
49	Nature and Extent of Contamination	Section 4.1.4	148	S4.S.5	Page 148, Section 4.1.4 Description of Presentation Tools: In the bullet for vertical profiles, specify how vertical profiles other than box plots, which show median values as a representation of central tendency, allow for easy evaluation of the central tendency in the data.	Agree	The text will be expanded as requested.	The response is acceptable.

**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

ID No.	Section Name/Topic	Section /Table/ Figure No.	Page No.	Reviewer Comment No.	Comment Text	Category	Response/Proposed Path Forward	EPA Comment (12/16/19)
50	Nature and Extent of Contamination	Section 4.2.2	149	S4.S.6	Page 149, Section 4.2.2 Percent Fines and Total Organic Carbon, last paragraph: Delete the sentence “Compared with other estuarine inlets...” The creek is similar to several waterbodies in the NY harbor where the only source of freshwater inputs are CSOs and stormwater. The organic carbon (OC) in these tributaries is not as elevated as it is in Newtown Creek. NAPL, petroleum spills and discharges are also sources of OC to the sediments of the creek. Revise the text to identify other sources of OC (such as NAPL, petroleum spills, and others) in addition to CSOs and stormwater as sources of OC to the sediments in the creek.	Agree	The sentence cited will be revised as requested regarding the uniqueness of Newtown Creek, recognizing that the influence of CSOs and stormwater varies spatially within the Study Area to a significant extent (e.g., upper tributaries versus lower main stem), and not all tidal inlets exhibit such features. The text in this section does identify the myriad sources of OC; it will be reviewed and updated as appropriate to ensure they are reflected in the discussions.	The response is acceptable.
51	Nature and Extent of Contamination	Section 4.2.2.1	150	S4.S.7	Page 150, 4.2.2.1 Percent Fines: “CSO effluent contains significant amounts of coarse-grained material (based on the whole-water CSO samples; see Section 4.2.1.3 of Appendix E).” Data collected using method D3977 show that there is more fine-grained material than coarse-grained material in CSOs. Percent fines data presented in draft RI Figure 4-10b are from the TAPE method. The TAPE measurements appear to be low in percent fines compared to the SSC method (D3977). Revise the text to include a discussion of both grain size datasets, and identify any potential impacts on the conclusion regarding coarse-grained material near CSOs.	Agree	The text will be expanded to discuss the other grain size method.	The response is acceptable.
52	Nature and Extent of Contamination	Section 4.2.2.1	150	S4.S.8	Page 150, 4.2.2.1 Percent Fines, second to last sentence: The text states that “The rapid settling of coarse-grained material compared with fine-grained material provides an explanation for the general finding of lower percent fines in sediments at the heads of the tributaries.” Percent fines do not show a clear spatial trend as a function of distance from the outfall. There are locations along the tributary where there is coarse material present that does not appear to be related to the outfall location. Revise the text to provide a more detailed explanation of data and the reasons that the data support the conclusion of lower percent fines in sediments at the heads of tributaries or revise the conclusion to more accurately reflect the data.	Agree	The text will be expanded to include a more detailed discussion of spatial patterns in the percent fines data.	The response is acceptable.
53	Nature and Extent of Contamination	Section 4.2.2.2	151	S4.S.9	Page 151, 4.2.2.2 Total Organic Carbon, second paragraph: The text states that Coney Island Creek and Fresh Creek Basin have total organic carbon (TOC) levels similar to the tributaries. Because both these reference waterbodies and the tributaries have CSO, the text suggests that CSOs are responsible for the high organic loads in the tributaries. This limited evaluation (only two reference areas) does not support the conclusion that CSOs are the source of elevated OC in the sediments. Seven of the 14 reference areas receive CSO discharges that are similar to tributaries in Newtown Creek. With the exception of Coney Island Creek and Fresh Creek, the other reference areas have lower OC content. For example, Westchester Creek and Flushing Creek have average TOC below 6%, which is consistent with TOC levels in CM 0–2 of Newtown Creek. Include a discussion of the industrial nature of the areas near Coney Island Creek and Fresh Creek and the potential contribution of industrial sources to the observed OC levels in the sediments of those reference areas.	Agree	The text will be expanded to include a more detailed discussion of patterns in the TOC data.	The response is partially acceptable. Per the comment, add a discussion of the industrial nature of the areas near Coney Island Creek and Fresh Creek.

**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

ID No.	Section Name/Topic	Section /Table/ Figure No.	Page No.	Reviewer Comment No.	Comment Text	Category	Response/Proposed Path Forward	EPA Comment (12/16/19)
54	Nature and Extent of Contamination	Section 4.2.3.1	157	S4.S.10	Page 157, Section 4.2.3.1 TPAH, third bullet: The description of the spatial trend in TPAH 17 concentrations in the sediments in Dutch Kills is not consistent with the data displayed in Figure 4-16b. Except for the first two samples at the confluence with Newtown Creek, the TPAH17 concentrations in the entire length of Dutch Kills are similar, generally ranging from about 20 to 100 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg). Revise the text to more accurately reflect the data for Dutch Kills presented on Figure 4-16b.	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.
55	Nature and Extent of Contamination	Section 4.2.3.2	157	S4.S.11	Page 157, Section 4.2.3.2 TPCB, second bullet: The text states that the TPCB concentrations in CM 1–2 overlap with the TPCB concentrations in the reference areas. While there is some overlap of TPCB concentrations in CM 1–2, more than half of the TPCB concentrations measured in the CM 1–2 reach are higher than those measured in reference areas. Revise the text to more accurately reflect the comparison of CM 1–2 data with reference area data.	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.
56	Nature and Extent of Contamination	Section 4.2.3.2	158	S4.S.12	Page 158, Section 4.2.3.2 TPCB, third bullet: The description of the spatial trend in TPCB concentrations in the sediments in Dutch Kills is not consistent with the data. With the exception of the first two samples at the confluence of Dutch Kills and the main stem of the Creek, the TPCB concentrations in the entire length of Dutch Kills are similar (see RI figure 4-19b). Revise the text to more accurately reflect the data presented for Dutch Kills on Figure 4-19b.	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.
57	Nature and Extent of Contamination	Section 4.2.3.3	159	S4.S.13	Page 159, Section 4.2.3.3 Cu, sixth bullet: The description of the spatial trend in Cu concentrations in the sediments of Dutch Kills is not consistent with the data. Except for the first two samples at the confluence with the main stem of the creek, the Cu concentrations in the entire length of Dutch Kills are comparable (see draft RI Figure 4-22b). Revise the text to more accurately reflect the Cu data for Dutch Kills.	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.
58	Nature and Extent of Contamination	Section 4.2.3.3	159	S4.S.14	Page 159, Section 4.2.3.3 Cu, seventh bullet: There does not appear to be any spatial trend in Whale Creek. Delete spatial trends in the text or provide the rationale for a spatial trend.	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.
59	Nature and Extent of Contamination	Section 4.2.3.4.1	159	S4.S.15	Page 159, Section 4.2.3.4.1 – 2,3,7,8-TCDD, first sentence: Delete the text stating that data are shown for the 14 reference areas. 2,3,7,8-TCDD data are available only for the four Phase 2 BERA reference areas, not for the other 10 reference areas.	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.
60	Nature and Extent of Contamination	Section 4.2.3.4.4	164	S4.S.16	Page 164, Section 4.2.3.4.4 Summary, last paragraph: Point sources are not the only ongoing source of contaminants to the tributaries. Other ongoing sources include groundwater discharge, East River solids, and shoreline seeps. Revise the text to include these other sources.	Agree	The text will be revised to refer to the full range of potential sources.	The response is acceptable.

**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

ID No.	Section Name/Topic	Section /Table/ Figure No.	Page No.	Reviewer Comment No.	Comment Text	Category	Response/Proposed Path Forward	EPA Comment (12/16/19)
61	Nature and Extent of Contamination	Section 4.2.5.1	167	S4.S.17	Page 167, Section 4.2.5.1 PAHs, first full paragraph. Sediment data collected by National Grid under the NYSDEC administrative order on consent (AOC) do not have TPAH34 concentrations. Include a note in the text and on Figure 4-34.	Agree	The text will be revised as requested; however, the note is already contained in the figure.	The response is acceptable.
62	Nature and Extent of Contamination	Section 4.3.2.1	172	S4.S.18	Page 172, Section 4.3.2.1 Percent Fines: Figure 4-41 shows percent fines data for subsurface sediment (and native material) as longitudinal profiles by CM. Figure 4-42 shows percent fines data for subsurface sediment as box plots by CM. The narrative in this section discusses arithmetic average concentrations as a basis of summarizing conditions. Because the longitudinal profile does not provide any visual representation of averages and because the box plot figure shows medians as the representation of central tendency, the discussion should also include median concentrations as a basis of summarizing conditions. This same comment applies to the narrative description of TOC data in Section 4.3.2.2.	Agree	The text will be revised to reference medians as well as arithmetic averages. (Note that the table referenced in this section does include the medians.)	The response is acceptable.
63	Nature and Extent of Contamination	Section 4.3.2.2	173	S4.S.19	Page 173, Section 4.3.2.2 Total Organic Carbon, last sentence: The vertical pattern of OC in the sediments is not necessarily indicative of higher CSO loads in the past, and there is limited data on historical OC levels in historical CSO discharges. Subsurface sediment OC has also been impacted by historical releases and discharges other than CSOs. Revise the text to include a more balanced discussion of the relevant sources contributing to the observed vertical pattern of OC in sediment.	Disagree	<p>The sentence identified in this comment already states that the source of higher TOC in subsurface sediment could be from a combination of CSOs and industrial sources (emphasis added):</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>This pattern suggests higher historical organic loads from CSOs, <b>as well as industrial facilities</b>, combined with the depositional nature of the system.</i></p> <p>Thus, it appears no edits are needed to address this comment.</p>	The response is acceptable. No change is needed in the text.
64	Nature and Extent of Contamination	Section 4.3.4.2	180-181	S4.S.20	Pages 180-181, Section 4.3.4.2 High-Resolution Cores, (URI.203): This comment relates to prior comment URI.203, for which the response is partially acceptable. In response to this prior comment, the NCG included additional detail in the bullets of this section to compare concentrations in shallower sediments to deeper sediments. However, there are additional trends in the data that should be described. In the CM 0–1 cores (NC154, NC161, and NC259), TPAH concentrations generally increase just below the surface, then decrease to 20 to 30 centimeters (cm) in depth, then increase to terminal depth, with the net being higher concentrations at 60 cm compared to the surface. In these same cores, concentrations for TPCB and Cu appear to generally increase with depth. Core NC071 in the CM 2+ region demonstrates a consistent pattern with depth for all contaminants: concentrations increase slightly to roughly 10 cm, then increase more significantly at 20 cm, then decrease to roughly 30 cm, and increase again to the terminal depth. Cores EK006 and EB006 appear to demonstrate a generally increasing concentration trend with depth in addition to having the generally highest concentrations at the terminal depth. For the Whale Creek core (WC012), the highest concentrations of TPCB and Cu are at the terminal depth, which should be noted. Revise the bullets to describe these patterns.	Agree	Some of the additional details noted in this comment will be added to the revised text, noting that: 1) additional discussion of these cores is provided in Section 6.4.4; and 2) some of the TPAH patterns described in this comment for the CM 0–1 cores occur within a small concentration range that arguably are within the limits of individual sample variability.	The response is acceptable.



**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

ID No.	Section Name/Topic	Section /Table/ Figure No.	Page No.	Reviewer Comment No.	Comment Text	Category	Response/Proposed Path Forward	EPA Comment (12/16/19)
65	Nature and Extent of Contamination	Section 4.4.2	182	S4.S.21	Page 182, Section 4.4.2: Percent Fines, Total Organic Carbon, TPH, and Soot Carbon: This section is structured into three subsections that describe percent fines (Section 4.3.2.1), TOC (Section 4.3.2.2), and TOC composition (Section 4.3.2.3). Section 4.3.2.3 specifically describes the relationships between TOC and TPH and between TOC and soot carbon for subsurface sediment. Section 4.4.2 should be structured similarly for consistency for both subsurface sediment and native material characteristics. The narrative in Section 4.4.2 that describes TPH concentrations in native material does not specifically describe the ratio between TPH and TOC (as is described in Section 4.3.2.3 for subsurface sediment) nor does it reference Figure 4-49, which depicts this ratio. Similarly, the narrative in Section 4.4.2 that describes soot carbon concentrations in native material does not specifically describe the ratio between soot carbon and TOC (as is described in Section 4.3.2.3 for subsurface sediment) nor does it reference Figure 4-53, which depicts this ratio. Restructure Section 4.4.2 for consistency with Section 4.3.2 and include the other information as described by this comment.	Agree	The text will be revised and restructured as requested.	The response is acceptable.
66	Nature and Extent of Contamination	Section 4.5.2.3	189	S4.S.22	Page 189, Section 4.5.2.3 Total Organic Carbon, second bullet point: This section attributes the higher levels of TOC concentrations observed in sediment traps at upstream locations with the presence of CSOs at the heads of the tributaries. Total rainfall during Quarter (Q)2 was approximately 13 inches as compared to 9 inches in both Q1 and Q3. However, the higher amount of rainfall in Q2 did not result in higher TOC in Q2 sediment trap samples. Discussion should include an assessment of the potential effect of differences in the sediment trap data based on the rainfall amounts during deployment and whether other sources of the OC in the traps (e.g., propwash and point sources other than CSOs) could impact the observed differences in OC concentrations in the Q2 versus Q1 and Q3 traps.	Agree	The text will be expanded as requested.	The response is acceptable. Note that other sources of OC in the traps are not necessarily limited to propwash and point sources other than CSOs.
67	Nature and Extent of Contamination	Section 4.6.1.2	196	S4.S.23	Page 196, Section 4.6.1.2 NAPL Dataset, Second full paragraph: The text reads as follows: “Visual observations of potential NAPL presence or absence in sediment and native material were described in the following terms, consistent with the Phase 2 FSAP Volume 2 (Anchor QEA 2014d) and NYSDEC guidance (NYSDEC 2012a):” Revise this sentence and elsewhere in the RI Report to reference the Phase 2 FSAP Volume 2 only and not the NYSDEC guidance.	Agree	The text will be revised as requested but will also cite the FS FSAP for completeness.	The response is acceptable.
68	Nature and Extent of Contamination	Section 4.6.4	206	S4.S.24	Page 206, Section 4.6.4 Native Material, first paragraph, third sentence: The text reads as follows: “Surrounding cores that penetrated to similar depths contained no visual evidence of potential NAPL, indicating that the deep native material impacts in the Turning Basin are localized and discontinuous.” Based on the cross section in Figures C5-16c, the surrounding cores are not as deep except for one other core. Revise this text to provide clarification.	Agree	The purpose of the sentence referenced in the comment is to state that the results of FS core NC374SC indicate that the lateral extent of NAPL observed in deep native material at GPEC-SB112 is limited (i.e., delineated in the upstream, downstream, and offshore directions; see Figure C5-16d and Figure C5-16i). The Section 4.6.4 text will be revised for clarity.	The response is acceptable.

**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

ID No.	Section Name/Topic	Section /Table/ Figure No.	Page No.	Reviewer Comment No.	Comment Text	Category	Response/Proposed Path Forward	EPA Comment (12/16/19)
69	Nature and Extent of Contamination	Section 4.7.2.1	209-211	S4.S.25	Pages 209-211, Section 4.7.2.1 Salinity, second paragraph: Salinity measurements during dry and wet weather sampling events are described, with Figure 4-103 referenced. For the dry weather salinity measurements, it appears that median salinity levels were slightly lower for Maspeth Creek, East Branch, and English Kills. In addition, Round 1 wet weather salinity are described as generally lower compared to Round 2, when median salinities were at least marginally higher during Round 1 in all reaches except CM 0–1. In the final paragraph, salinity measurements are described with respect to tidal cycles, with Figures 4-106a and 4-106b referenced. Similar to Figure 4-103, Figures 4-104 (shallow samples), 4-106a, and 4-106b appear to show marginally lower salinities for some of the upcreek tributaries, and Figure 4-106b appears to show marginally higher salinities at higher tides for all reaches. Revise this section to more clearly describe the patterns that are observed in the graphics and discuss the implications of these patterns and results.	Agree	Additional text mentioning additional features and patterns in the data will be added to this section.	The response is acceptable.
70	Nature and Extent of Contamination	Section 4.7.2.3	213	S4.S.26	Page 213, Section 4.7.2.3: TSS (URI.230): This comment relates to prior comment URI.230, for which the response is not acceptable. From Figures 4-111 and 4-112, the concentrations of total suspended solids (TSS) in Round 1 wet weather samples are generally not dramatically different from the concentrations in dry weather samples. The concentrations measured in Round 1 wet weather samples are likely influenced by both solids loading from point discharges and dilution from increased water inflow. Revise this section to clarify the conclusion. The NCG also included language in the current draft of the RI indicating that comparisons between wet and dry weather TSS data could be confounded because the samples were not collected at the same time of year. Clarify how this is unique to TSS data, and this same issue should not be noted for any other comparison between dry and wet weather data.	Agree	The discussion will be expanded based on this comment.	The response is acceptable.
71	Nature and Extent of Contamination	Section 4.7.3.1.1	214-215	S4.S.27	Pages 214-215, Section 4.7.3.1.1 Spatial Distribution: Figure 4-114 demonstrates dry weather TPAH data for surface water as box plots by CM. The narrative in this section discusses arithmetic average concentrations as a basis of summarizing conditions. Because the box plots show medians as the representation of central tendency, the discussion should also include median concentrations as a basis of summarizing conditions. This same comment applies to the narrative description of dry weather TPCB surface water data in Section 4.7.3.2.1 (Figure 4-118) and dry weather Cu surface water data in Section 4.7.3.3.1 (Figure 4-123).	Agree	The text will be revised to reference medians as well as arithmetic averages. (Note that the tables referenced in these sections do include the medians.)	The response is acceptable.
72	Nature and Extent of Contamination	Section 4.7.3.1.1	214	S4.S.28	Page 214, Section 4.7.3.1.1 Spatial Distribution: Figure 4-114 demonstrates an overall pattern of increasing dry weather TPAH concentrations in surface water with increasing CM. Describe this overall trend in the text in addition to the trends by more discrete CM reaches and individual tributaries.	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.

**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

ID No.	Section Name/Topic	Section /Table/ Figure No.	Page No.	Reviewer Comment No.	Comment Text	Category	Response/Proposed Path Forward	EPA Comment (12/16/19)
73	Nature and Extent of Contamination	Section 4.7.3.1.2	215	S4.S.29	Page 215, Section 4.7.3.1.2: Variations with Depth, Time, and Tidal Cycle, first paragraph of the section: The text indicates that Figure 4-115 demonstrates no apparent systematic difference between surface and deep samples in the tributaries, “with the exception of a subset of sample data that have concentrations greater than 0.5 µg/L in the deep sample.” Explain how it is possible to parse this from the Figure 4-115 cross plot, which demonstrates a single statistical test across all of the plotted data. Revise the text accordingly or remove this statement.	Agree	The text will be revised to clarify how this pattern in the data is shown by the referenced figure.	The response is acceptable.
74	Nature and Extent of Contamination	Section 4.7.3.2.1	216	S4.S.30	Page 216, Section 4.7.3.2.1 Spatial Distribution: Figure 4-118 demonstrates an overall pattern of increasing dry weather TPCB concentrations in surface water with increasing CM. Describe this overall trend in the text in addition to the trends by more discrete CM reaches and individual tributaries.	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.
75	Nature and Extent of Contamination	Section 4.7.3.2.1	217-218	S4.S.31	Pages 217-218, Section 4.7.3.2.1 Spatial Distribution, bullets for English Kills, East Branch, Maspeth Creek, and Dutch Kills: These bullets do not provide any comparison to reference data for TPCB concentrations. Include this comparison explicitly in the narrative.	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.
76	Nature and Extent of Contamination	Section 4.7.3.2.2	218	S4.S.	Page 218, Section 4.7.3.2.2 Variations with Depth, Time, and Tidal Cycle, first paragraph: The text describes Figure 4-120 and suggests that the reference areas show similar TPCB concentrations in shallow and deep samples based on the figure. The reference areas pane of Figure 4-120 shows a p-value of 0.020, which, according to the description of the binomial test statistic, should indicate that the data distribution is significantly above or below the 1:1 line. Explain the meaning of the p-value in the context of the conclusion offered and the visual appearance of the reference area data in the cross plot.	Agree	The text will be expanded as suggested.	The response is acceptable.
77	Nature and Extent of Contamination	Section 4.7.3.2.2	219	S4.S.33	Page 219, Section 4.7.3.2.2 Variations with Depth, Time, and Tidal Cycle, final paragraph of this section: The text states that there are no clear relationships between dry weather surface water TPCB concentrations and tide direction (Figure 4-122a) or tidal stage (Figure 4-122b). Both figures appear to show a generally increasing concentration pattern with increasing CM, similar to Figure 4-118 (see comment on Section 4.7.3.2.1 above). Acknowledge this overall trend in the text.	Disagree	The trend noted in the comment describes a spatial pattern and has nothing to do with variations with tide cycle, which the referenced text and figures describe. Spatial patterns are discussed in the preceding section (Section 4.7.3.2.1). Therefore, it appears no changes are needed to address this comment.	The response is acceptable. No change is needed in the text.

**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

ID No.	Section Name/Topic	Section /Table/ Figure No.	Page No.	Reviewer Comment No.	Comment Text	Category	Response/Proposed Path Forward	EPA Comment (12/16/19)
78	Nature and Extent of Contamination	Section 4.7.3.3. 2	220	S4.S.34	Page 220, Section 4.7.3.3.2 Variations with Depth, Time, and Tidal Cycle, first paragraph: The text describes Figure 4-124, a cross plot of surface water Cu data by depth. For the main stem, the text states that “the majority of the data do not show a systematic difference with sampling depth.” Explain how it is possible to parse this from the Figure 4-124 cross plot, which demonstrates a single statistical test across all of the plotted data and provides a p-value of 0.026 for the main stem. Revise the text accordingly or remove this statement. In addition, this paragraph indicates that “Cu concentrations are not dependent on depth in the tributaries and reference areas.” However, a p-value could not be calculated for Cu in surface water for the reference areas. Explain how Figure 4-124 demonstrates this lack of relationship for the reference areas or modify the text accordingly.	Agree	The text will be expanded based on the points raised in this comment and will be clarified to discuss that the interpretation is based both on the trends evident in the figure and the p-values.	The response is acceptable.
79	Nature and Extent of Contamination	Section 4.7.4.1. 1	221-222	S4.S.35	Pages 221-222, Section 4.7.4.1.1: Spatial Distribution: Figure 4-127 demonstrates wet (and dry) weather TPAH data for surface water as box plots by CM. The narrative in this section discusses arithmetic average concentrations as a basis of summarizing conditions. Because the box plots show medians as the representation of central tendency, the discussion should also include median concentrations as a basis of summarizing conditions. This same comment applies to the narrative description of wet weather TPCB surface water data in Section 4.7.4.2.1 (Figure 4-129) and dry weather Cu surface water data in Section 4.7.4.3.1 (Figure 4-131).	Agree	The text will be revised to reference medians as well as arithmetic averages. (Note that the tables referenced in these sections do include the medians.)	The response is acceptable.
80	Nature and Extent of Contamination	Section 4.7.4.2. 2	224	S4.S.36	Page 224, Section 4.7.4.2.2 Comparison Between Round 1 and Round 2 Sampling: Reverse the order of the final two sentences in this section to avoid confusion (i.e., as written, the final sentence is dislocated from the sentence that it modifies).	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.
81	Nature and Extent of Contamination	Section 4.7.5	227	S4.S.37	Page 227, Section 4.7.5 Particulate Phase Concentrations, second to last paragraph: This paragraph states that particulate phase concentrations in the Study Area are typically higher than in the reference areas during both dry and wet weather conditions. Update the text to explicitly describe that the magnitude by which Study Area particulate phase concentrations are higher than reference areas is greater during wet weather conditions as compared to dry weather conditions.	Agree	The text will be expanded as requested.	The response is acceptable.
82	Nature and Extent of Contamination	Section 4.8.1	228	S4.S.38	Page 228, Section 4.8.1 Porewater Dataset, second full paragraph, last sentence: As this is the first use of the term, clarify what is meant by “mid-depth” as it relates to the sediments and underlying native materials.	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.
83	Nature and Extent of Contamination	Section 4.8.1	229	S4.S.39	Page 229, Section 4.8.1 Porewater Dataset, first paragraph, last sentence: Note where in the RI the reader can find the deployment durations for the in situ passive samplers.	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.

Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix

ID No.	Section Name/Topic	Section /Table/ Figure No.	Page No.	Reviewer Comment No.	Comment Text	Category	Response/Proposed Path Forward	EPA Comment (12/16/19)																					
84	Nature and Extent of Contamination	Section 4.8.2.2.3	234	S4.S.40	Page 234, Section 4.8.2.2.3 Cu Spatial Distribution, first paragraph, fourth sentence: Revise the text to read as follows: “Cu concentrations are non-detect in several samples and are relatively variable within the Study Area, potentially due in part to the differing sampling methods employed.”	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.																					
85	Nature and Extent of Contamination	Section 4.9	240-241	S4.S.41	Section 4.9: The text should be revised to state that the attenuation and magnitude of Study Area impacts from groundwater-borne COPCs are explicitly modeled in the – model and this will be investigated as part of the CF&T modeling. Results of the CF&T modeling will be discussed with EPA to determine whether they will be incorporated into the final RI report or presented in the FS.	Disagree/Clarification	<p>This section discusses nature and extent in groundwater and makes no mention of attenuation; thus, the requested revision is unnecessary in this section (it will be added, however, in the relevant portions of Sections 5 and 6).</p> <p>With respect to the last sentence of the comment, as per the response to Comment ID No. 41, the NCG would like clarification from USEPA, as it suggests a different timing between the CFT model report and the final RI Report than that which is included in the current project schedule.</p>	<p>First portion of the response: The response/path forward is acceptable.</p> <p>Second portion of the response: See comment on the response to comment ID no. 4.</p>																					
86	Nature and Extent of Contamination	Section 4.9.1	241	S4.S.42	Page 241. Section 4.9.1, second to last sentence: Remove the statement, “This was unavoidable due to the well construction and sampling methods that were used in accordance with the EPA Final Groundwater Investigation Work Plan (EPA 2014a).” Statement is extraneous and unnecessary.	Agree	Although this statement is accurate, it will be deleted.	The response is acceptable.																					
87	Sources	Section 5.1.2	269	S5.S.1	Page 269, Section 5.1.2 Flow Data, CSO and stormwater, first paragraph: The arithmetic average annual CSO discharge provided by the NCG includes precipitation data for 2011, which was an unusually wet year. For the CF&T modeling, 2008 is proposed as the standard rainfall year, which is similar to the input used in the approved long-term control plan (LTCP). Provide annual discharge for 2008 or a range from 2008 to 2012.	Agree	<p>The text will be expanded to include the range of annual discharges between 2008 and 2012. Note that the arithmetic average annual CSO discharge for 2008 to 2012 also includes 2012, which was an unusually dry year. Below is an excerpt from Table G3-1 of Appendix G which shows total point source discharge volume predicted by the geo-neutral model.</p> <table><tr><th>Year</th><th>Annual Rainfall (inches)</th><th>Total Discharge Volume (MG)</th></tr><tr><td>2008</td><td>47.8</td><td>2,520</td></tr><tr><td>2009</td><td>46.3</td><td>2,150</td></tr><tr><td>2010</td><td>40.3</td><td>2,080</td></tr><tr><td>2011</td><td>65.3</td><td>3,960</td></tr><tr><td>2012</td><td>36.2</td><td>1,650</td></tr><tr><td>5-year average</td><td>47.2</td><td>2,470</td></tr></table> <p>The difference between the 5-year average (2,470) and the annual discharge for 2008 (2,520) is not substantial. And in fact, the 5-year average is slightly less.</p>	Year	Annual Rainfall (inches)	Total Discharge Volume (MG)	2008	47.8	2,520	2009	46.3	2,150	2010	40.3	2,080	2011	65.3	3,960	2012	36.2	1,650	5-year average	47.2	2,470	The response is acceptable.
Year	Annual Rainfall (inches)	Total Discharge Volume (MG)																											
2008	47.8	2,520																											
2009	46.3	2,150																											
2010	40.3	2,080																											
2011	65.3	3,960																											
2012	36.2	1,650																											
5-year average	47.2	2,470																											

**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

ID No.	Section Name/Topic	Section /Table/ Figure No.	Page No.	Reviewer Comment No.	Comment Text	Category	Response/Proposed Path Forward	EPA Comment (12/16/19)
88	Sources	Section 5.1.2	269	S5.S.2	Page 269, Section 5.1.2 Flow Data: Include the annual discharge from treated effluent from groundwater remediation and dewatering systems in this section of the text.	Disagree	Annual discharges from treated groundwater effluent are already provided in this section of the text on page 270.	The response is acceptable.
89	Sources	Section 5.2.1	297	S5.S.3	Page 297, Section 5.2.1, top of page 297, and Section 8.6.1.3, top of page 492: Compare the negative seepage rates estimated at CM 1.1, between CM 1.2 and 2.0, and at CM 0.5 to salinity profile data if available at those locations. Discuss if the salinity profile at one or both locations is consistent with the negative seepage rates, or if it indicates a significant presence of fresh groundwater. Discuss the salinity profile data in the text as a relevant factor for evaluating seepage direction into the Study Area.	Agree	Salinity profiles will be compared to seepage data and discussed as a relevant factor for evaluating seepage direction.	The response is acceptable.
90	Sources	Section 5.2.3	302	S5.S.4	Page 302, Section 5.2.3 Sensitivity Analysis, final bullet: See Section 4, General Comment No. 2.	Agree	See response to Comment ID No. 41.	See comment on the response to comment ID no. 4.
91	Sources	Section 5.3	303	S5.S.5	Page 303, Section 5.3 East River, first paragraph, last sentence: This sentence seems inconsistent with the presentation of information in Tables 5-18 to 5-25, which present data from the transect at the mouth separated by flood and ebb. Revise the text to be consistent with the tables.	Agree	The text will be revised to clarify that the data were combined for the figures and discussed together in the text, and that they were listed separately in the tables as a means of illustrating that the differences between samples collected under flood and ebb tide conditions were small (recognizing there were far fewer samples collected during ebb tide conditions).	The response is acceptable.
92	Sources	Section 5.3.1-5.3.5	304-308	S5.S.6	Page 304-308, Section 5.3.1 to 5.3.5, and Figures 5-30 to 5-37: Given that Tables 5-18 to 5-25 break out the transect data into flood and ebb, clarify if the data presented in the figures include all transect data, or only flood, or only ebb. If the figures include only flood or ebb tide data, revise the figures to include both sets of data.	Agree	The text will be clarified to indicate the figures show all data.	The response is acceptable.
93	Sources	Section 5.3.2	305	S5.S.7	Page 305, Section 5.3.2 TSS: Data quality issues with the grain size data collected under the June 2018 East River sampling program should be discussed in the data usability appendix.	Agree	The requested discussion will be added to Attachment G-N to the FMRM (Appendix G).	The response is acceptable.
94	Sources	Section 5.4	309	S5.S.8	Page 309, Section 5.4 Shoreline Erosion, second paragraph: This paragraph indicates that the initial evaluation of shoreline erosion was based primarily on observations of bank conditions. However, the prior draft of the RI report indicated that the initial evaluation was also based on the review of available documentation (e.g., Sanborn maps and spill records). Revise the text to indicate that the initial evaluation was based on the review of available documentation and observations of bank conditions.	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.

**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

ID No.	Section Name/Topic	Section /Table/ Figure No.	Page No.	Reviewer Comment No.	Comment Text	Category	Response/Proposed Path Forward	EPA Comment (12/16/19)
95	Sources	Section 5.4	309	S5.S.9	Page 309, Section 5.4 Shoreline Erosion, last sentence on the page: This sentence indicates that material within the shoreline area is likely to represent native soils, fill associated with reworking the shoreline by adjacent site owners or occupants, and material deposited from other sources. Update this language to reflect that the shoreline area likely contains various other fill materials, consistent with other portions of the RI report, including materials likely derived from outside the Study Area.	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.
96	Sources	Section 5.4	309	S5.S.10	Page 309, Section 5.4 Shoreline Erosion, last sentence: Delete the example listed in the sentence. While the sediments adjacent to the CSO outfall may have originated from the CSOs, there are other sources of COPCs to those sediments, including groundwater, the East River, and other point sources.	Disagree	A number of areas of potential shoreline erosion are within areas designated as CSO mounds in NYCDEP documentation. (See NYCDEP's <i>Newtown Creek Waterbody/Watershed Facility</i> from June 2011.) Therefore, this is a relevant example. Per Comment ID No. 95, the text will be revised to include reference to materials likely derived from outside of the Study Area.	The response is partially acceptable. Also, see comment on the response to comment ID no. 5.
97	Sources	Section 5.4.2.1	311-312	S5.S.11	Pages 311-312, Section 5.4.2.1 Surface TPAH: An overall pattern of increasing TPAH concentrations in the upcreek direction is evident in Figure 5-40. Update the text to reflect this overall pattern. For the bullets that describe the data from CM 1–2 and Dutch Kills, the text indicates that the shoreline concentrations are “consistent with, or lower than, other surface sediment data” or “fall within the range of, or lower than, other surface sediment data.” However, for both bins of data, there is only one result lower than the other data. Revise the text to reflect that surface TPAH concentrations in the shoreline area for CM 1–2 and Dutch Kills are consistent with other data, with the exception of one result each.	Disagree/Agree	The overall patterns of the surface sediment data were already discussed in Section 4 and do not warrant repeating for the discussion of the shoreline data, from which such a trend cannot be discerned (nor was it a goal of the sampling).  For Dutch Kills, there are two samples lower than surface sediment data. Nevertheless, the intent of the discussion in this section is to compare to “nearby” surface sediment in the reach, so the text will be revised to be clearer in that regard.  The text also will be revised to reflect that surface TPAH concentrations in the shoreline area for CM 1–2 are consistent with other data, with the exception of one result each.	The response is partially acceptable. Include language in Section 5.4.2.1 (before the bulleted list of observations) that explicitly describes that the comparisons being made are between shoreline data and other sediment data and are not intended to assess potential trends along the longitudinal transect for shoreline data. Without such language, discussing shoreline data along a longitudinal transect implies trend interpretation along that transect.
98	Sources	Section 5.4.2.2	312-314	S5.S.12	Pages 312-314, Section 5.4.2.2 Surface TPCB: An overall pattern of increasing TPCB concentrations in the upcreek direction is evident in Figure 5-41. Revise the text to reflect this overall pattern.	Disagree	See response to Comment ID No. 97.	The response is partially acceptable. Include language in Section 5.4.2.2 (before the bulleted list of observations) that explicitly describes that the comparisons being made are between shoreline data and other sediment data and are not intended to assess potential trends along the longitudinal transect for shoreline data. Without such language, discussing shoreline data along a longitudinal transect implies trend interpretation along that transect.

**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

ID No.	Section Name/Topic	Section /Table/ Figure No.	Page No.	Reviewer Comment No.	Comment Text	Category	Response/Proposed Path Forward	EPA Comment (12/16/19)
99	Sources	Section 5.4.2.3	314-315	S5.S.13a	Pages 314-315, Section 5.4.2.3 Surface Cu: An overall pattern of increasing Cu concentrations in the upcreek direction is evident in Figure 5-42. Revise the text to reflect this overall pattern.	Disagree	See response to Comment ID No. 97.	The response is partially acceptable. Include language in Section 5.4.2.3 (before the bulleted list of observations) that explicitly describes that the comparisons being made are between shoreline data and other sediment data and are not intended to assess potential trends along the longitudinal transect for shoreline data. . Without such language, discussing shoreline data along a longitudinal transect implies trend interpretation along that transect.
100	Sources	Section 5.4.2.3	314-315	S5.S.13b	First bullet, CM 0–1: The text indicates that the one result is lower than the median concentration of other surface sediment data. Update the text to indicate that this one result is within the overall distribution of the other surface sediment data from CM 0–1.	Agree	Text will be updated to include the additional requested information. Similar text discussing PAH and PCB data in CM 0–1 will also be updated so that discussions are consistent across chemicals.	The response is acceptable.
101	Sources	Section 5.4.2.3	314-315	S5.S.13c	Fourth bullet, East Branch: The text indicates that the shoreline surface sediment data are consistent with, or lower than, other surface sediment data, when, the shoreline data appear consistent with or higher than the other surface water data. Revise the text to reflect accordingly.	Disagree/Clarification	We assume this comment refers to surface sediment data instead of surface water data.  Regardless, the text will be revised to state that the shoreline data are generally consistent with or higher than the range of other surface sediment data, but there are shoreline sediment sample results that are both higher and lower than other surface sediment data in localized areas.	The response is acceptable.
102	Sources	Section 5.4.2.3	314-315	S5.S.13d	Sixth and seventh bullets: The text indicates that the shoreline data are generally consistent with, or lower than, the other surface sediment data, when in fact the shoreline data populations have results that are both lower than and higher than the other sediment data (and for Maspeth Creek, the average Cu concentration for the shoreline data is higher than the maximum result for the other data). Update the text accordingly.	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.
103	Sources	Section 5.4.2.3	314-315	S5.S.13e	Last paragraph: The text indicates that “shoreline surface sediment Cu concentrations are generally similar to, or lower than, the rest of the RI surface sediments...” and that “...elevated Cu concentrations exist in English Kills and Maspeth Creek.” Update the text to more accurately indicate that surface sediment Cu concentrations in the shoreline area are generally consistent with but show both higher and lower concentrations compared to other RI data and to indicate that localized elevated Cu concentrations are present in the shoreline surface sediments.	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.



**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

ID No.	Section Name/Topic	Section /Table/ Figure No.	Page No.	Reviewer Comment No.	Comment Text	Category	Response/Proposed Path Forward	EPA Comment (12/16/19)
104	Sources	Section 5.4.3.1	315-316	S5.S.14	Pages 315-316, Section 5.4.3.1 Subsurface TPAH: The text indicates that “generally, shoreline subsurface sediment TPAH concentrations are similar to, or lower than, the surface sediments collected at the same sample location.” Figure 5-43 demonstrates that more than half of the cores (13 of 24) have higher concentrations in the subsurface. Update the text to more accurately reflect the comparison between surface and subsurface concentrations.	Agree	The text will be revised to clarify. While 13 of the 24 cores do have concentrations that are higher than subsurface sediment, many of the concentrations in surface and subsurface sediment are similar or relatively low in concentration. For example, in core NC381SG, the surface sediment concentration for TPAH is 0.2 mg/kg, and the subsurface sediment concentration is 0.5 mg/kg.	The response is acceptable.
105	Sources	Section 5.4.3.2	316	S5.S.15	Page 316, Section 5.4.3.2 Subsurface TPCB: This section indicates that “generally, shoreline subsurface sediment TPCB concentrations are similar to, or lower than, the surface sediments collected at the same sample location.” Figure 5-44 demonstrates that nearly half of the cores (10 of 24) have higher concentrations in the subsurface. The text also indicates that elevated TPCB concentrations are present at depth in cores NC386, DK066, EK131, and EK133, whereas Figure 5-44 shows these cores have higher concentrations at the surface (NC386, DK066, and EK131) or have only marginal difference between surface and subsurface concentration (EK133). Update the text to more accurately reflect the comparison between surface and subsurface concentrations.	Agree	The text will be revised to clarify. While 10 of the 24 cores do have concentrations that are higher than subsurface sediment, many of the concentrations in surface and subsurface sediment are similar or relatively low in concentration.  Discussion regarding elevated concentrations in subsurface sediment will be revised to be clearer.	The response is acceptable.
106	Sources	Section 5.4.3.3	316	S5.S.16	Page 316, Section 5.4.3.3 Subsurface Cu: The text in this section indicates that “generally, shoreline subsurface sediment Cu concentrations are similar to, or lower than, the surface sediments collected at the same sample location.” In fact, Figure 5-45 demonstrates that more than half of the cores (17 of 24) have higher concentrations in the subsurface. Update the text to more accurately reflect the comparison between surface and subsurface concentrations.	Agree	The text will be revised to clarify. While 17 of the 24 cores do have concentrations that are higher than subsurface sediment, many of the concentrations in surface and subsurface sediment are similar or relatively low in concentration.	The response is acceptable.
107	Sources	Section 5.4.4	317	S5.S.17a	Page 317, Section 5.4.4 Shoreline Erosion Summary: There are several statements in this section that are not accurate based on the data presented.  First paragraph, first sentence: It states that, with a few exceptions, contaminant concentrations in surface sediments in shoreline areas are consistent with or less than surface sediment concentrations in other (non-shoreline) areas of Newtown Creek. This statement is inaccurate; rewrite this to indicate that the surface sediment contaminant concentrations in the shoreline areas generally show an increasing trend in the upcreek direction, consistent with overall patterns in the other RI data.	Disagree	See response to Comment ID No. 97.	The response is partially acceptable. Also ensure that the summary section is consistent with revisions made to Section 5.4 based on other comments above (e.g., comments on responses to comment ID nos. 104 to 106).
108	Sources	Section 5.4.4	317	S5.S.17b	Fourth paragraph, first sentence: This sentence suggests that subsurface sediment contaminant concentrations in the shoreline areas are generally similar to or lower than the surface sediment concentrations in the same areas. This is not substantiated by the data presented, which show nearly to well over half of the 24 shoreline cores have higher contaminant concentrations in the subsurface. Revise this paragraph to accurately represent the data (see previous comments on Sections 5.4.3.1, 5.4.3.2, and 5.4.3.3, respectively, above).	Agree	The text will be revised to clarify. See responses to Comment ID Nos. 101, 104, and 105.	The response is acceptable.

**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

ID No.	Section Name/Topic	Section /Table/ Figure No.	Page No.	Reviewer Comment No.	Comment Text	Category	Response/Proposed Path Forward	EPA Comment (12/16/19)
109	Fate and Transport	Section 6.1	328	S6.S.1	Page 328, Section 6.1 Introduction, Figure 6.1: Add a horizontal arrow representing “External Loads (groundwater flux)” to the surface sediment layer. Revise the text on page 329 (first paragraph) to acknowledge this external load.	Agree	The text and figure will be revised to discuss this potential loading pathway. However, it will be acknowledged that this pathway is spatially limited to the areas of surface sediment along the shoreline, and thus the cross-sectional area over which this load could occur is a small fraction (<1%) compared to the surface area over which upward groundwater flow enters surface sediment from subsurface sediment.	The response is acceptable.
110	Fate and Transport	Section 6.1	329	S6.S.2	Page 329, Section 6.1 Introduction, second paragraph, third sentence: Modify the text (e.g., via footnote) to note that this gradient could also potentially be impacted by other factors (e.g., horizontal loadings).	Clarification	Please provide clarification regarding what “other factors” USEPA has in mind. Furthermore, are the “horizontal loadings” referenced in this comment the same process as described in Comment ID No. 109? If so, given the limited spatial extent over which such loadings could affect surface sediment, it does not seem necessary to discuss this process in this place, given it will be acknowledged in general as per the response to Comment ID No. 109.	The response is acceptable. See comment on the response to comment ID no. 109.
111	Fate and Transport	Section 6.2.2	332	S6.S.3	Page 332, Section 6.2.2 Current Velocities, Circulation, and Tidal Effects: First sentence in paragraph refers to “more saline water flowing inland in a bottom layer during incoming tide.” Such density-driven or estuarine circulation is generated by along-channel salinity gradients, is independent of the tide, and persists even during ebb tide. Delete the phrase “during incoming tide.”	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.
112	Fate and Transport	Section 6.3.1	334	S6.S.4	Page 334, Section 6.3.1, Sediment Bed Characteristics: Revise the text to note that, while net depositional as a whole, erosional areas (be they episodic or longer term) exist at the site.	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.
113	Fate and Transport	Section 6.3	333-334	S6.S.5	Page 333-334, Section 6.3 Sediment Transport, second sub-bullet for the bullet starting on page 333 and the bullet starting on page 334: Both sub-bullets attribute long-term temporal (50 to 75 years) changes in NSRs only to changes in point source loadings. However, the analysis in Attachment G-G also attributes changes in NSRs over this time period to changes in trapping efficiency. Revise the sub-bullets to also mention changes in trapping efficiency as a cause for changing NSRs, consistent with the analysis in Attachment G-G.	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.
114	Fate and Transport	Section 6.3.2	335	S6.S.6	Page 335, Section 6.3.2 Sediment Sources and Inputs, last sentence in first complete paragraph: Rather than characterizing washload as “having effectively a zero settling speed”, recommend rewording as “subject to negligible deposition” since that is a more accurate description of the process in reality and in the model.	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.
115	Fate and Transport	Section 6.3.2	335	S6.S.7	Page 335, Section 6.3.2 Sediment Sources and Inputs, full paragraph: The dry weather TSS values show minimal, if any, gradient during dry weather. Revise the text to state that there is no or a minimal spatial gradient in TSS during dry weather for the entire creek, not just from the East River to Turning Basin.	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.

**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

ID No.	Section Name/Topic	Section /Table/ Figure No.	Page No.	Reviewer Comment No.	Comment Text	Category	Response/Proposed Path Forward	EPA Comment (12/16/19)
116	Fate and Transport	Section 6.3.4	338	S6.S.8	Page 338, Section 6.3.4 Deposition and Net Sedimentation, second paragraph: The text should be edited to show the range of East River solids deposition in English Kills and East Branch. As per Figure G5-160, the East River deposition in the lower portions of English Kills and East Branch is as high as 40 to 60%.	Agree	The text will be revised as requested, noting that the averages for some of the reaches (including those identified in this comment) are based on results that contain a large degree of spatial variation.	The response is acceptable.
117	Fate and Transport	Section 6.3.4	338	S6.S.9	Page 338, Section 6.3.4 Deposition and Net Sedimentation, first sentence on page: The lines of evidence referenced in the text presumably refer to the analysis in Attachment G-H. As commented in the context of Attachment G-H, in addition to changes in CSO loads, changes in trapping efficiency also may have affected NSRs over time. Revise the text to mention the effect of this transport process on NSRs.	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.
118	Fate and Transport	Section 6.4.1	340	S6.S.10	Page 340, Section 6.4.1, Chemical Partitioning Characteristics, first bullet: Revise the bullet as follows: “PAHs, PCBs, and Cu partition onto the solid phase in a manner that can be estimated using an equilibrium partition coefficient. However, for the Newtown Creek RI, this partitioning is not currently being represented through traditional OC-based approaches for the organics, due to complexities of sources and forms of OC present in the Study Area.”	Agree	The edits suggested in this comment (i.e., the word “currently”) can be misleading, since they can be read to suggest that the RI Report may be revised in the future. This sentence will be revised to indicate that this approach used in the RI Report is being further evaluated as part of the CFT modeling, consistent with other statements in this section.	The response is acceptable.
119	Fate and Transport	Section 6.4.1.3.1	342	S6.S.11	Page 342, Section 6.4.1.3.1 Datasets and Analysis Approach, second and third bullets: Revise the text to note what degree of chemical equilibrium between the aqueous and solid phases in the point sources and surface water was assumed when determining the referenced partitioning coefficients and the supporting rationale for that assumption.	Agree	The lead-in sentence to this bullet list will be revised to note that the analyses for all media (i.e., paired sediment and porewater samples, as well as point sources and surface water samples) are rooted in the common assumption of equilibrium between phases, as discussed in Section 6.4.1.1.	The response is partially acceptable. Also revise the text (possibly as a footnote) to note how the assumption of equilibrium partitioning was developed for point source samples, where the travel time for a sediment particle from collection point to discharge point, and the resulting time for equilibrium to be reached between the aqueous and solid phases, would potentially be significantly less than for other portions of the system (e.g., “Due to the relatively long hydraulic residence time of groundwater in the subsurface sediment bed [e.g., weeks to months, or longer, based on the seepage rates presented in Section 5.2.1], it is likely that sorption equilibrium is attained [e.g., Pignatello and Xing 1996].”; excerpt from page 379 of revised RI)

**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

ID No.	Section Name/Topic	Section /Table/ Figure No.	Page No.	Reviewer Comment No.	Comment Text	Category	Response/Proposed Path Forward	EPA Comment (12/16/19)
120	Fate and Transport	Section 6.4.1	339	S6.S.12	Pages 339 Section 6.4.1 Chemical Partitioning Characteristics: Further discussion and rationale are needed in the text for the selection of non-traditional solids-based (Kd) chemical phase partitioning instead of OC-based (Koc) chemical phase partitioning. The standard error results reported for the averages of the log ratios of paired surface sediment and shallow porewater concentration measurements shown on Figures 6-8a to 6-8f are generally similar, whether Kd or Koc. Standard error results for naphthalene are identical for both phase partitioning approaches and therefore are not a factor in approach selection. Standard error results are somewhat smaller on a particulate organic carbon (POC) basis for C3-naphthalenes, tetra-CB, penta-CB, hexa-CB, and hepta-CB, and slightly favor the traditional POC-based phase partitioning approach. The solids-based partitioning approach has slightly lower standard error results for fluoranthene, pyrene, benzo(a)pyrene, di-CB, and tri-CB, slightly favoring solids-based partitioning. Standard error results for 5 of 11 of the non-metal chemicals to be modeled per the analysis presented in the RI for the bed therefore slightly favor either OC-based or dry weight-based chemical phase partitioning (i.e., a 5-chemical to 5-chemical tie between evaluating the two approaches in terms of smaller standard error):	Disagree/Clarification	<p>The NCG would like clarification on this and certain other comments on this section, given they run counter to the discussions about partitioning with USEPA that led to the approach used in the CFT modeling. In particular, these comments are not wholly consistent with the concurrence that was reached on the approach for representing partitioning in the model.</p> <p>With respect to this particular comment, the comparison and decision regarding OC versus dry weight approaches was not made based on standard error statistics alone; rather, it was based on multiple lines of evidence. The marginal differences in standard error values noted in this comment are consistent with no meaningful overall difference between dry weight and OC approaches. If OC was an important determinant of partitioning, the OC-based values would have substantially lower standard errors. Given that is not the case, it is not worth the added complexity of normalizing the data to this one phase.</p> <p>The above notwithstanding, the text will be reviewed to evaluate whether these points can be made more clearly and to make sure it fully acknowledges the similarity in standard error values across the set of chemicals included in this evaluation.</p>	<p>The response is partially acceptable. Address this and other comments in this section by briefly acknowledging in the RI report:</p> <p>(1) The marginal differences in error statistics for K<sub>d</sub> versus K<sub>OC</sub> approaches</p> <p>(2) That OC normalization does not improve error statistics</p> <p>(3) The potential reasons why OC normalization does not improve error statistics as discussed during the CFT modeling meetings (presence of soot carbon, different forms of OC, NAPL, etc.)</p> <p>(4) Any additional rationale for using a K<sub>d</sub> approach instead of a K<sub>OC</sub> approach</p>
121	Fate and Transport	Section 6.4.1.3.2	344	S6.S.12a	Page 344, second bullet: This should state that standard error result based on site measurements were non-decisive, and the text should be revised to state that the standard error results for the site surface bed measurements (down to 30 cm) were non-decisive for approach selection.	Clarification	See response to Comment ID No 120.	See comment on the response to comment ID no.120.
122	Fate and Transport	Section 6.4.1.3.2	344	S6.S.12b	The statement that Kd relationships are in many cases better than Koc relationships should be removed given that each is better for five of the non-metal chemicals to be modeled.	Clarification	See response to Comment ID No 120.	See comment on the response to comment ID no.120.
123	Fate and Transport	Section 6.4.1.3.2	344	S6.S.12c	The statement that an improved relationship on a Kd basis is observed for porewater PAHs ignores the stronger Koc results for naphthalene and C3-naphthalenes and should either be removed or qualified with the specific PAHs to be modeled for which the statement is true. Further, the discussion of porewater PAHs should also reflect that neither partitioning approach, regardless of slight differences in the reported standard error results being used for comparing the approaches, captures the outlier Triad program measurements in English Kills and CM2+ most notably for benzo(a)pyrene (Figure 6-8f) and to a lesser extent for pyrene (Figure 6-8e) and fluoranthene (Figure 6- 8d).	Agree	The text will be revised to qualify and expand the discussion consistent with the comment.	The response is acceptable

**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

ID No.	Section Name/Topic	Section /Table/ Figure No.	Page No.	Reviewer Comment No.	Comment Text	Category	Response/Proposed Path Forward	EPA Comment (12/16/19)
124	Fate and Transport	Section 6.4.1.3.4	349	S6.S.12d	Page 349, Section 6.4.1.3.4: Similarly, the statement that OC does not reduce variability in the partitioning relationships in the Study Area (due to dry weight relationships being stronger than OC-based relationships) is incorrect and should be limited to specific chemicals or deleted.	Disagree/Clarification	See response to Comment ID No. 120.	See comment on the response to comment ID no. 120
125	Fate and Transport	Section 6.4.1.3.4	349	S6.S.12e	While the standard error results address variability in the measurements as compared to the y-intercept, the standard error results do not address how closely the measurements fit the imposed slope of 1 and the overall equation. For this reason, a coefficient of determination (R <sup>2</sup> ) value, the ratio of the variation explained by the regression line and the total variation, should also be provided on Figures 6-8a to 6-8f as requested in comments on the previous draft of the RI. Further, it is typical to include a coefficient of determination result when a regression analysis is used.	Agree	The figures will be updated to include r <sup>2</sup> values as requested. (Note that as per Footnote No. 167, the regression equation is equivalent to the average log ratio of the individual concentration data pairs, which is why standard error values have been used in favor of r <sup>2</sup> .)	The response is acceptable
126	Fate and Transport	Section 6.4.2.1	353	S6.S.13	Page 353, Section 6.4.2.1 Dry Weather, second paragraph, first sentence: English Kills is the only tributary where TPCB concentrations are significantly higher than in the rest of the creek. For other COPCs, including TPAH17, there are no significant differences in the whole water concentrations measured in surface water during dry weather conditions. Revise the text to state that TPCB concentrations in English Kills are higher than in the rest of the creek. Delete the association with porewater and sediments from the tributaries as the concentrations in tributaries in dry weather are similar to the main stem with the exception of TPCB concentrations in English Kills.	Disagree	Although there is a higher degree of overlap for PAHs and PCBs outside of English Kills, the data suggest slightly higher surface water concentrations in upstream tributaries, especially when individual PAH and PCB compounds are considered (e.g., see Figures 6-31 and 6-32). Furthermore, this comment runs somewhat counter to Comment ID Nos. 72 and 74, which reference “an overall pattern of increasing dry weather concentrations in surface water with increasing CM.”  Thus, the discussion of increased concentrations and association with porewater and sediments will be retained, but it will be revised to reference the large degree of overlap.	The response is acceptable. See comments on the responses to comment ID nos. 72 and 74.
127	Fate and Transport	Section 6.4.2.2	355	S6.S.14	Page 355, Section 6.4.2.2 Wet Weather, second paragraph, “Similar to TPAH concentrations, TPCB and Cu concentrations in surface water do not show much of a relationship with rainfall duration and intensity (see Figures 6-21 and 6-22, respectively). In contrast to TPAH, the TPCB concentrations in English Kills were lowest in Event 1 (the highest total precipitation event). This could indicate a potential dilution effect where relatively lower TPCB concentrations were associated with stormwater-derived point source inputs in that reach during this event, resulting in lower surface water concentrations. This dilution effect could have been observed for TPCB (but not TPAH) due to differences in concentration and runoff behavior of the individual sewersheds contributing these chemicals to the point source discharges in this tributary. However, the data are too limited to draw definitive conclusions.” Delete the last portion of the text regarding dilution effect observed for TPCB (but not TPAH) as it is speculative.	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.

**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

ID No.	Section Name/Topic	Section /Table/ Figure No.	Page No.	Reviewer Comment No.	Comment Text	Category	Response/Proposed Path Forward	EPA Comment (12/16/19)
128	Fate and Transport	Section 6.4.2.2	356	S6.S.15	Page 356, Section 6.4.2.2 Wet Weather, first paragraph, last sentence, “This difference would suggest that concentrations in the East River during these wet weather events were not higher than those under dry weather, which could be due to the large dilution in the East River or timing of discharges to that waterbody relative to those in the Study Area.” Explain how this assertion can be made when wet weather surface water data were not collected in the East River.	Agree	The data interpretation cited in this comment is based on the spatial pattern of relative differences between wet and dry weather chemical concentrations, which shows less difference in CM 0–1 as compared to the upper portions of the Study Area, as described in the earlier portion of this paragraph and as shown in Figures 4-127, 4-129, and 4-131. The text will be revised to indicate that the lack of wet weather data from the East River adds uncertainty to this interpretation, but the conclusion and summary from this section are unchanged.	The response is acceptable.
129	Fate and Transport	Section 6.4.2.2	356	S6.S.16	Page 356, Section 6.4.2.2 Wet Weather, second paragraph, “Furthermore, tidal exchange with the East River is the dominant mechanism controlling surface water chemical concentrations in the main stem of Newtown Creek and the lower tributaries under dry weather conditions. This process resulted in lower concentrations in CM 0 – 1 relative to the upper portion of the Study Area during wet weather sampling but was not the mechanism causing the increase in surface water concentrations observed during wet weather conditions elsewhere.” The East River is the dominant source to the creek during dry weather conditions as supported by sampling results. The second sentence is confusing and needs to be clarified or deleted.	Agree	The second sentence will be clarified as requested.	The response is acceptable.
130	Fate and Transport	Section 6.4.3.1	357	S6.S.17	Page 357, Section 6.4.3.1 Processes that Influence Surface Porewater Concentrations, first paragraph, first sentence: The text reads as follows: “The concentrations and spatial patterns of surface porewater data (0 to 15 cm [0 to 6 inches]) are presented in Section 4.8.2.” Clarify why the 15 to 30 cm data are not referenced here as well.	Agree	This sentence will be revised to also reference the porewater data from the 15- to 30-cm interval, recognizing that fewer samples were collected from this depth as compared to 0 to 15 cm (17 versus 53 samples).	The response is acceptable.
131	Fate and Transport	Section 6.4.3.1.2	359	S6.S.18	Page 359, Section 6.4.3.1.2 Effects of Tidal Exchange and Advection on Surface Porewater, last paragraph: The draft RI indicates that the results of the TRIAD data are similar to the porewater data collected as part of the groundwater program. Comparison of the paired data shows that for all paired data, the COPC concentrations measured as part of the TRIAD program are higher than those measured as part of groundwater program. Differences in the paired data must be discussed in the context of the sample collection methodologies used for the TRIAD samples (ex situ) and the groundwater samples (in situ) and the potential effects of tidal pumping on the sample results.	Disagree/Clarification	As discussed in this section, the cited figures indicate that the overall patterns of the shallow porewater data are similar between the samples collected under the triad program and those collected under the groundwater program. This comment makes reference to “paired” samples between these two programs; because these programs were conducted at different times and at different locations, there is no such pairing of samples. Thus, the NCG requests clarification from USEPA on this comment. Given there was no pairing between the programs, a graphical comparison of spatial patterns, as discussed in this section, was selected as an appropriate means of comparing them.	The response is acceptable.

**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

And PAH constituents

132	Fate and Transport	Section 6.4.3.1.2	360	S6.S.19	Page 360, Section 6.4.3.1.2 Effectives of Tidal Exchange and Advection on Surface Porewater, “Second, concentration gradients between surface water and shallow porewater provide further evidence that tidal exchange is not a dominant process affecting the in situ porewater samples..... the cause for this similarity must be due to mechanisms other than tidal exchange (i.e., strong partitioning within surface sediments; see Section 6.4.1.3).” The assertion that tidal exchange (tidal pumping) is not responsible for the observed gradient between surface water and shallow porewater is not supported. The observed gradient could also be the result of tidal pumping diluting shallow porewater, resulting in a gradient with porewater concentrations being less than groundwater but greater than surface water. The text needs to provide further discussion and explanation of why tidal pumping is not a plausible explanation of the observed gradient and why it must be due to other mechanisms (i.e., strong partitioning in surface sediments).	Disagree	This section presents four different lines of evidence to evaluate the potential effects of tidal exchange on surface porewater concentrations. The text referenced in this comment is just one of them. If diluted groundwater was driving the surface porewater concentrations, as suggested in this comment, the results of the analysis presented as the fourth line of evidence in this section (see pages 361 to 362) would have indicated as such. But it did not; all four of the evaluations presented in this section suggest that the effects of tidal exchange and groundwater advection (i.e., dissolved phase processes) are much less than the effects of sorbed phase processes (i.e., partitioning with the sediment matrix) on controlling surface porewater concentrations.	The response is partially acceptable. Clarify in the text if the trends/gradients observed for TPCB and TPAH were consistent across the range of individual PAH chemicals or PCB congeners, or if the trend/gradient varied based on the environmental mobility/partitioning characteristics of the individual compounds (e.g., individual PAHs having lower partitioning coefficients exhibited different trends/gradients than those with higher partitioning coefficients).
133	Fate and Transport	Section 6.4.3.3	367	S6.S.20	Page 367, Section 6.4.3.3 Particulate Phase Sediment/Water Exchange, second to last paragraph: The sediment trap data do not have lower concentrations of PAHs as compared to nearby sediment. Evaluation of the data shows that in upper tributaries, the sediment trap data are comparable to data in the nearby sediments. For CM 1.5+ and Maspeth Creek, East Branch, and English Kills, naphthalene concentrations in sediment traps are comparable to the concentrations in the sediments. In portions of the creek, such as Dutch Kills, the naphthalene concentrations in the traps are lower than those in nearby sediments. Also, for TPCB and Cu, the concentrations in the sediment traps are comparable in English Kills. Revise the text to more accurately reflect the data.	Agree	<p>The text will be revised to indicate that the sediment trap data in the upstream tributaries and CM 2+ are closer to the nearby surface sediment data for PAHs as compared to PCBs and Cu (although in general there are more data points below the 1:1 line than above for each of the three chemicals, as shown in Figures 6-36 through 6-38).</p> <p>However, the NCG would like to clarify the following with respect to the remainder of this comment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The text referenced in this comment discussed data for TPAH, not naphthalene; sediment trap data for naphthalene are being considered as part of the CFT modeling effort.</li> <li>• With respect to TPCB and Cu in the English Kills sediment traps, the text correctly indicates that the sediment trap data tend to be lower, as evidenced by seven out of the eight data points being below the 1:1 line in Figures 6-37 and 6-38.</li> </ul>	The response is acceptable, including the two clarifications.
134	Fate and Transport	Section 6.4.3.3	367	S6.S.21	Page 367, Section 6.4.3.3 Particulate Phase Sediment/Water Exchange, and footnote 190: The text asserts that gas ebullition cannot be a source of COPCs measured in sediment traps. The COPC concentrations measured in the sediment traps are higher than those measured in East River solids and point source solids. Because contaminant concentrations in the traps are not higher than neighboring sediments or deeper sediments does not preclude the influence of contaminants from other sources on the traps. Revise the text and footnote 190 to acknowledge other potential sources of contaminants to the sediment traps such as ebullition and sediment resuspension.	Agree	The text and footnote will be revised to further acknowledge potential contributions from a range of sources.	The response is acceptable.

**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

135	Fate and Transport	Section 6.4.3.3	368	S6.S.22	Page 368, Section 6.4.3.3 Particulate Phase Sediment/Water Exchange, second paragraph, “The elevated TPCB concentrations observed in the Q2 samples from one location each in Dutch Kills and Maspeth Creek may also be indicative of variations in point source loads at these locations.” The draft RI states that the two elevated TPCB concentrations in the Q2 samples may be from point source discharges; however, this is not supported by the point source data as concentrations of TPCB observed in the two trap samples (27 and 28 mg/kg) are an order of magnitude higher than those in CSO solids (maximum 1.4 mg/kg) and MS4 (max 1.8 mg/kg). Provide the relevant data to support the statement that elevated TPCB concentrations in the Q2 samples could be the result of variations in point source loads in Dutch Kills and Maspeth Creek or delete the text referenced above.	Agree	The text will be revised to indicate the two elevated sample results cannot be attributed to any single potential source or mechanism, although in general the sediment trap samples are interpreted to reflect a combination of sources and processes (e.g., East River, point sources, propwash) that varies spatially and temporally.	The response is acceptable.
136	Fate and Transport	Section 6.4.4	369	S6.S.23	Page 369, Section 6.4.4 Surface Sediment Chemical Fate and Transport Processes, first paragraph, fifth sentence: Revise the text to note that areas of erosion and episodic erosion/deposition have been identified at the site.	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.
137	Fate and Transport	Section 6.4.4.2	370	S6.S.24	Page 370, Section 6.4.4.2, Sources of Chemicals to the Surface Sediment, first partial paragraph, first full sentence: Revise the text as follows: “As such, porewater advection is relatively more significant as a source of chemicals to the surface sediment in areas with lower relative NSRs and higher seepage rates primarily for less sorptive contaminants (e.g., LPAHs).”	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.
138	Fate and Transport	Section 6.4.4.4	373	S6.S.25	Page 373, Section 6.4.4.4 Physical Mixing in the Surface Sediment, first full paragraph, first sentence: Revise the text to discuss empirical evidence of bioturbator distribution within the site.	Agree	The text will be revised as requested (i.e., to include the information presented during the June 19, 2019 CFT modeling check-in meeting).	The response is acceptable.
139	Fate and Transport	Section 6.4.4.4	373	S6.S.26	Page 373, Section 6.4.4.4, Physical Mixing in the Surface Sediment, last paragraph, last sentence: Revise the text to note why only lead-210 (Pb-210) geochronology data are being used to examine mixing as opposed to using both Pb-210 and cesium-137 (Cs-137) data.	Agree	The text will be clarified as requested, noting that Pb-210 profiles generally provide a more sensitive means with which to evaluate surface mixing than Cs-137 because Pb-210 is deposited into sediment at a constant rate, whereas Cs-137 is a time-marker from aerial nuclear testing, and because Pb-210 decays at a faster rate than Cs-137, which results in declines in activity with depth in the subsurface sediment, where there are no ongoing inputs.	The response is acceptable.



**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

140	Fate and Transport	Section 6.4.4.5	374	S6.S.27	Page 374, Section 6.4.4.5 Changes in Surface Sediment Concentration over Time, second full paragraph, first sentence: Revise the text to note that not all cores (~80% are showing recovery based on Section 6.4.4.5) show that sediment concentrations are declining over time.	Disagree	<p>The following sentence in question already indicates that not all cores show the declining profile, by virtue of the stated 80% statistic and indicating that a majority of cores show this profile (emphasis added):</p> <p><i>This conclusion is demonstrated by the observation that for TPAH, TPCB, and Cu, the concentration in the first subsurface sediment core segment (usually the depth interval of approximately 15 to 60 cm [6 to 24 inches]) is greater than the concentration in the surface segment (0 to 15 cm [0 to 6 inches] depth interval; see Section 4.3.4.1) in the majority (more than 80%) of the sediment cores.</i></p> <p>Thus, no additional edits are needed in order to address this comment.</p>	The response is acceptable
141	Fate and Transport	Section 6.4.4.5	375	S6.S.28	Page 374, Section 6.4.4.5, Changes in Surface Sediment Concentration over Time, first paragraph, third sentence: Revise the text as follows: “Near-surface concentration gradients are caused by deposition of solids with considerably lower (or higher) chemical concentrations than present in the sediment bed; gradients are more limited if depositing solids have concentrations that are similar to those present in the sediment bed or if mixing is rapid enough to eliminate the gradient.” Emphasis added for comment clarity.	Agree	<p>The text will be revised as requested.</p>	The response is acceptable.
142	Fate and Transport	Section 6.4.4.5	374	S6.S.29	Page 374, Section 6.4.4.5 Changes in Surface Sediment Concentration over Time, third paragraph, first sentence: Revise the text as follows: “Overall, the roles of net sedimentation, sources, loss processes, and mixing have likely combined to produce reductions in surface sediment concentration over time (as compared to historical concentrations) throughout much of the Study Area, as evidenced by the sediment core data.”	Agree	<p>The text will be revised as requested.</p>	The response is acceptable.
143	Fate and Transport	Section 6.4.5.2	378	S6.S.30	Page 378, Section 6.4.5.2 Losses of Chemicals from the Subsurface Sediment: It is premature to conclude that groundwater-borne COPC loadings have a negligible impact on the Study Area. FS-stage CF&T modeling and analysis must be conducted before making such a conclusion. The assumptions and analysis approaches supporting this RI conclusion need to be reevaluated during the FS CF&T modeling efforts, which should include interaction with EPA for discussing and agreeing to the conceptual basis elements, the adjustments to assumed values, and the sensitivity analysis thresholds needed. Results of the CF&T modeling will be discussed with EPA to determine whether they will be incorporated into the final RI report or presented in the FS. This comment also applies to Section 8.5.2.3, Section 8.6.1.3, and Section 9.1 pages 512-513.	Disagree/Clarification	<p>Consistent with the response to Comment ID No. 41, the NCG would like clarification from USEPA with respect to the agency’s expectations regarding use of the CFT model to investigate this topic and timing of such evaluations and related reporting relative to that of finalizing the RI Report.</p> <p>The above notwithstanding, the conclusion about the relative amount of chemical mass transported from subsurface sediment to surface sediment is based on empirical data on sediment and porewater chemical concentrations, groundwater flow rates, and site-specific partitioning relationships. All of this information is embodied in the CFT model, and the evaluations and discussions that formed this conclusion in the RI Report (including the evaluations presented in Sections 6.4.5.3 and 6.5) are based on the same mathematical formulations included in that model; thus the NCG disagrees that it is premature to reach this conclusion. Nevertheless, the text will be revised to note that this conclusion can be further evaluated and quantified with the CFT model.</p>	<p>First portion of the response: See comment on the response to comment ID no. 4.</p> <p>Second portion of the response: The response is acceptable.</p>

**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

144	Fate and Transport	Section 6.4.7.2	338	S6.S.31	Page, 338, Section 6.4.7.2 Fate and Transport, 3rd Bullet: Replace “NAPL/water density contrast” with “NAPL specific gravity, if appropriate.”	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.
145	Fate and Transport	Section 6.4.7.2	389	S6.S.32	Page 389, Section 6.4.7.2 NAPL Advection in Sediment and Native Material, NAPL emplacement bullet: Briefly describe how this impacts the ability of NAPL to flow as a separate phase.	Agree	The bullet will be expanded to describe how NAPL emplacement affects the ability of NAPL to flow as a separate phase.	The response is acceptable.
146	Fate and Transport	Section 6.4.7.2	390	S6.S.33	Page 390, Section 6.4.7.2 NAPL Advection in Sediment and Native Material, second paragraph: Revise this paragraph to include a brief summary of the results from the initial screening stage.	Agree	The text will be revised to include a brief summary of the results from the initial screening stage.	The response is acceptable.
147	Fate and Transport	Section 6.4.7.2	390	S6.S.34	Page 390, Section 6.4.7.2 NAPL Advection in Sediment and Native Material, footnote 205: The text reads as follows: “For NAPL with a density of 1, a 1-G centrifuge spin creates a hydraulic gradient of 1.” Provide a citation for this statement. Also include a discussion of uncertainties due to potential variations in NAPL density.	Agree	Documentation will be provided to support the statement that for a NAPL density of 1, a 1-G centrifuge spine creates a hydraulic gradient of 1. The text will also note the range of gradients that could be possible based on potential variations in NAPL density.	The response is acceptable.
148	Fate and Transport	Section 6.4.7.2	391	S6.S.35	Page 391, Section 6.4.7.2 NAPL Advection in Sediment and Native Material, first paragraph, last sentence: Clarify what is meant by “measurable greater amounts” in quantitative terms.	Agree	The text will be revised to clarify what is meant by “measurably greater amounts.”	The response is acceptable.
149	Fate and Transport	Section 6.4.7.5	392	S6.S.36	Page 392, Section 6.4.7.5 NAPL Migration Associated with Gas Ebullition, last paragraph, last sentence: The text reads as follows: “These FESs were performed during the time of year when gas ebullition is expected to be most active...” Revise the text to include what time of year the field ebullition surveys (FESs) were performed.	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.
150	Fate and Transport	Section 6.4.7.5	394	S6.S.37	Page 394, Section 6.4.7.5 NAPL Associated with Gas Ebullition, fourth bullet: Delete the fourth bullet. The association of static sheens with point source discharges is speculation.	Disagree	As presented in Appendix D (the Gas Ebullition Evaluation) of the RI Report, static sheen was much more prevalent following the 2016 precipitation event than on previous dry days, and the field crew noted sheen observations originating from outfalls, which are documented in the final dataset presented in the Phase 2 DSR. The bullet will be modified to note specific outfalls and dates where sheen was observed to be originating from an outfall.	The response is partially acceptable. Note in the text that sheens have been observed that were related to spills.
151	Fate and Transport	Section 6.5	396	S6.S.38	Page 396, Section 6.5, Mass Load and Inventory Comparisons: Revise this section to also note that preliminary mass estimates will be refined during the FS and associated CF&T modeling.	Disagree	This section already states multiple times that the preliminary mass and load estimates it presents will be refined as part of the CFT modeling (twice in the Section 6.5 lead-in paragraph, Footnote 212, and last paragraph in Section 6.5.2). Thus, it appears that no further edits are needed to address this comment.	The response is acceptable.

**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

152	Fate and Transport	Section 6.6	406	S6.S.39	Page 406, Section 6.6 Bioaccumulation, footnote 216 (URI.319 and URI.323): Footnote 216 discusses why the RI focuses on PCBs and why total dioxins/furans, while bioaccumulative and primary contributors to both cancer risk and noncancer hazards, are not part of the RI discussion. Revise this RI section in accordance with RI General Comment No. 1.	Agree	The footnote will be revised consistent with the path forward in the response to Comment ID No. 1.	The response is acceptable.
153	Fate and Transport	Section 6.6.2.1	409	S6.S.40	Page 409, Section 6.6.2.1 Resident Organisms, footnote 217 (URI.327): Delete the sentence, “This is particularly evident in the mobile species in Newtown Creek, where the tissue PCB concentrations are not fully explained by the Study Area sediments, rather the PCBs represent a mix of exposure sources, consistent with these species’ life history and diet.”	Disagree	This analysis that demonstrates that tissue PCB concentrations are not fully explained by Study Area sediments is included in the USEPA-approved MAM3.	The response is acceptable.
154	Risk Assessment Summary	Section 7.1.4	424	S7.S.1a	Pages 424 through 425, Section 7.1.4 Risk Characterization (URI.346, URI.347, URI.348, and URI.349): Text, and not just tables in the risk characterization section should give an indication of the magnitude of estimated risks/hazards that exceed thresholds. It is not adequate to just state that risks or hazards exceeded thresholds. While the text in this section was edited in response to specific edits provided by EPA in the previous comments referenced above, no additional edits were made in response to the general comment (URI.346). Edit the three other paragraphs, noting risks and/or hazards that exceed thresholds to include those values as follows:  Page 424 second paragraph after bullets, second sentence: Add to the end of the sentence “(i.e., cancer risks up to 3 x 10 <sup>-4</sup> ).”	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.
155	Risk Assessment Summary	Section 7.1.4	424	S7.S.1b	Page 424, second paragraph after bullets, third sentence: Add to the end of the sentence “(i.e., noncancer HIs up to 20).”	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.
156	Risk Assessment Summary	Section 7.1.4	425	S7.S.1c	Page 425, first full paragraph, second sentence: Add to the end of the sentence “(i.e., cancer risks up to 3 x 10 <sup>-4</sup> ).”	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.
157	Risk Assessment Summary	Section 7.1.4	4251	S7.S.1d	Page 425, first full paragraph, third sentence: Add to the end of the sentence “(i.e., noncancer HIs up to 20).”	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.
158	Risk Assessment Summary	Section 7.1.4	425	S7.S.1e	Page 425, second full paragraph, second sentence: Add to the end of the sentence “(i.e., cancer risks up to 8 x 10 <sup>-4</sup> ).”	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.
159	Risk Assessment Summary	Section 7.1.4	425	S7.S.1f	Page 425, second full paragraph, third sentence: Add to the end of the sentence “(i.e., noncancer HIs up to 40).”	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.

**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

160	Conceptual Site Model	Section 8.1	463	S8.S.1	Page 463, Section 8.1 Introduction, first full paragraph: The text reads as follows: “For example, pollutants and contaminants that act as non-COPEC stressors, including low DO, porewater sulfide and bulk sediment concentrations of complex hydrocarbon mixtures, may contribute to the adverse effects observed in sediment toxicity tests in some tributary areas influenced by ongoing CSO and MS4 discharges where these stressors are elevated, but where porewater concentrations of COPECs are below risk thresholds. To the extent that discharges of these non-COPEC stressors will continue under any selected remedy, consistent with the urban environment surrounding the Study Area, any adverse effects that may arise from these stressors will need to be taken into account when evaluating the progress of natural recovery and/or recontamination as part of assessing remedy effectiveness ” Revise the text to remove the reference to CSO and MS4s. The listed stressors cannot be attributed solely to CSO and MS4s. Delete the second sentence beginning with “To the extent...” Revise the text as follows: “For example, pollutants and contaminants that act as non-COPEC stressors, including low DO, porewater sulfide, and bulk sediment concentrations of complex hydrocarbon mixtures, may contribute to the adverse effects observed in sediment toxicity tests in some tributary areas where these stressors are elevated, but where porewater concentrations of COPECs are below risk thresholds.”	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.
161	Conceptual Site Model	Section 8.2	465	S8.S.2	Page 465, Section 8.2 Site Setting, first full paragraph, and Page 466 Section 8.3 Physical Characteristics of the Study Area, last paragraph, third sentence: Stresses from pollutants and contaminants should be deleted, here and throughout the report. For consistency with the BERA, the discussion of non-COPC stressors should be limited to low DO, sulfide, and complex hydrocarbons.	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.
162	Conceptual Site Model	Section 8.2	465	S8.S.3	Page 465, Section 8.2 Site Setting, first full paragraph, second sentence: The text reads as follows: “Those potential risks that arise from ongoing urban sources directly impacting the creek, together with regional background concentrations, must influence future remedial decision-making.” Remove this sentence as the purpose of the RI is to discuss nature and extent of contamination, not remedial decision-making.	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.
163	Conceptual Site Model	Section 8.4.1	469	S8.S.4	Page 469, Section 8.4.1 Surface and Subsurface Sediment, footnote 223: The footnote includes TPAH, TPCB, and Cu, which are correct drivers for the ecological risk assessment. However, the human health risk assessment was driven by PCBs in fish and PCBs and tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin (TCDD) in crabs. The footnote should be revised to include TCDD as a primary risk driver for human health consumption of crabs. A figure should also be added to show the patterns of dioxin in sediment, and dioxins should be included in the discussion in Section 8.4 (see General Comment No. 1).	Agree	The text will be revised as requested, and the figure will be added.	The response is acceptable.

**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

164	Conceptual Site Model	Section 8.4.1.1	469-470	S8.S.5	Pages 469-470, Section 8.4.1.1: TPAH, TPCB, and Cu: In addition to describing contamination patterns for discrete CM reaches for surface sediments (which the RI text indicates also describe patterns in subsurface sediments), describe in this section that there is an overall pattern of increasing contaminant concentrations in the upcreek direction for both surface and subsurface sediments. This section also lacks any information describing patterns between shoreline and non-shoreline areas as are discussed in Section 5.4 of the RI report. This is an important consideration in the overall nature and extent of sediment contamination, and there are locations where the highest contaminant concentrations are observed in shoreline sediments (for both surface and subsurface sediments). Add a brief summary of this information to the narrative and direct the reader to the appropriate sections where it is discussed in detail.	Agree	The text will be modified to be consistent with the discussion in the relevant sections of the main report.	The response is acceptable
165	Conceptual Site Model	Section 8.4.1.1	470	S8.S.6	Page 470, Section 8.4.1.1: TPAH, TPCB, and Cu: This section summarizes patterns in contaminant concentrations for surface sediments and indicates that subsurface sediment contaminant concentration patterns are generally similar (while not explicitly describing the patterns for subsurface sediments). While it is generally true that subsurface contaminant patterns are similar to surface, there are conclusions offered for surface sediments that are not entirely accurate with respect to subsurface sediments.	Agree	The text will be modified to be consistent with the discussion in the relevant sections of the main report.	The response is acceptable
166	Conceptual Site Model	Section 8.4.1.1	470	S8.S.6a	CM 0–2 bullet: The narrative indicates that surface sediment concentrations are generally consistent with reference concentrations for both CM 0–1 and CM 1–2. However, Figures 8-9, 8-10, and 8-11 demonstrate that the concentrations in surface sediments for CM 0–1 and CM 1–2 (more so CM 1–2) are actually generally higher than reference areas even if there is overlap between the data distributions in some cases. Revise the text to reflect this.	Agree	The text will be modified to be consistent with the discussion in the relevant sections of the main report.	The response is acceptable
167	Conceptual Site Model	Section 8.4.1.1	470	S8.S.6b	Tributaries bullet: The bullet that describes patterns in the tributaries provides general patterns for only surface sediments, which are not entirely consistent with subsurface sediments. For instance, high subsurface sediment concentrations are observed for other chemicals beyond TPCBs in Dutch Kills and English Kills (e.g., Cu concentrations in Dutch Kills) and also in other tributaries (e.g., Cu concentrations in Whale Creek). Revise the text to more explicitly describe patterns for subsurface sediments where those patterns are not adequately represented by conditions in surface sediments.	Agree	The text will be modified to be consistent with the discussion in the relevant sections of the main report.	The response is acceptable.
168	Conceptual Site Model	Section 8.4.1.2	472	S8.S.7	Page 472, Section 8.4.1.2, NAPL, bulleted items: Clarify if “...sheen was observed at...locations” (e.g., first sub-bullet for both CM 0–2 and CM 2+) refers to observations of the water surface in the field or observations from the laboratory.	Agree	The text will be revised as requested to indicate that the sheen referenced in the text was observed in surface sediment samples during sample processing.	The response is acceptable.
169	Conceptual Site Model	Section 8.4.2.1	474	S8.S.8	Page 474, Section 8.4.2.1 TPAH, TPCB, and Cu: Revise the CM 2+ bullet to also acknowledge the elevated Cu concentration (14,000 mg/kg), as summarized in Section 4.4.3.3, and revise the tributary bullet to acknowledge that at least somewhat elevated concentrations of TPAH, TPCB, and Cu in Dutch Kills (see Section 4.4.3.1 Figure 4-57, Section 4.4.3.2 Figure 4-61, and Section 4.4.3.3 Figure 4-65).	Agree	The text will be modified to be consistent with the discussion in the relevant sections of the main report.	The response is acceptable.

**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

170	Conceptual Site Model	Section 8.4.3	475-478	S8.S.9a	<p>Pages 475-478, Section 8.4.3 Surface Water:</p> <p>Second paragraph (top of page 476): The text suggests that there is limited spatial variation for TPAH, TPCB, or Cu concentrations in surface water. While this is generally true for Cu, there is an apparent overall increasing trend for TPAH and TPCB in an upcreek direction. Include this overall trend in the narrative.</p>	Agree	The text will be modified to be consistent with the discussion of surface water trends presented in Section 4.	The response is acceptable.
171	Conceptual Site Model	Section 8.4.3	475-478	S8.S.9b	<p>CM 0–2 bullet: It is stated that East River surface water contaminant concentrations are higher than Phase 2 reference areas “likely in part because the four Phase 2 reference areas were selected by USEPA specifically because they exhibited lower surface sediment concentrations than the other Phase 1 reference areas.” The Phase 2 reference areas were selected based on an evaluation of multiple factors, including to represent a range of industrialization and contaminant inputs. Delete the portion of the sentence that reads “likely in part because the four Phase 2 reference areas were selected by USEPA specifically because they exhibited lower surface sediment concentrations than the other Phase 1 reference areas.” The CM 0–2 bullet also states that concentrations measured in sediment and surface water in the Phase 2 reference areas represent a lower bound estimate of regional background for the NYC urban region as a whole. Delete this statement as it is not substantiated by the data presented in the RI report. The final sentence of this section states “Along with ongoing sedimentation, this will act to reduce surface sediment concentrations over time.” Change “will” to “is expected to” to avoid a definitive presupposition about this outcome.</p>	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.
172	Conceptual Site Model	Section 8.5.2.1	483	S8.S.10	<p>Page 483, Section 8.5.2.1 Point Sources and Overland Flow: Revise the text to note that these loads and percentages are estimates to be refined as work on the site FS and associated CF&amp;T continues.</p>	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.
173	Conceptual Site Model	Section 8.5.2.1	484	S8.S.11	<p>Page 484, first paragraph, last sentence: “East River water mixes with the waters of upper New York Harbor and Long Island Sound, so it contains nearly the full suite of urban chemical contamination associated with the NY/NJ Harbor urban estuary.” The chemical contamination associated with the NY/NJ Harbor estuary is vague and has not been defined in the RI. Revise the sentence as follows: “East River water mixes with the waters of upper New York Harbor and Long Island Sound. It contains chemical constituents associated with those water bodies.”</p>	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.
174	Conceptual Site Model	Section 8.5.2.3	512-513	S8.S.12	<p>Sections 6.4.5.2, Section 8.5.2.3, Section 8.6.1.3, and Section 9.1 pages 512-513 “Groundwater”: It is premature to conclude that groundwater-borne COPC loadings have a negligible impact on the Study Area. FS-stage CF&amp;T modeling and analysis must be conducted before making such a conclusion. The assumptions and analysis-approaches supporting this RI conclusion needs to be reevaluated during the FS CF&amp;T modeling efforts, which should include interaction with EPA for discussing and agreeing to the conceptual basis elements, the adjustments to assumed values, and the sensitivity analysis thresholds needed. Results of the CF&amp;T modeling will be discussed with EPA to determine whether they will be incorporated into the final RI report or presented in the FS.</p>	Agree	See response to Comment ID No. 143.	See comments on the responses to comment ID nos. 4 and 143.

**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

175	Conceptual Site Model	Section 8.6.1.3	491	S8.S.13	Page 491, Section 8.6.1.3 Subsurface Sediment Fate and Transport Processes, first bullet: Revise the text to read as follows: “Lower concentrations in surface sediment as compared to subsurface sediment at many locations in the Study Area.”	Agree	Text will be revised as suggested, but “many” will be changed to “most” (80% of the cores Study Area-wide exhibit this trend).	The response is partially acceptable. Revise the text to read as follows: “Lower concentrations in surface sediment as compared to subsurface sediment at 80% of the sampled locations in the Study Area.”
176	Conceptual Site Model	Section 8.7	501	S8.S.14	Page 501, Section 8.7 Bioaccumulation, Risk, and Exposure Pathways, first bullet under Reference Areas: Add the following sentence to end of bullet: “No individual COPCs have estimated cancer risks above the USEPA acceptable risk range, and PCBs and dioxins/furans are the only COPCs with an HQ above the noncancer hazard threshold of 1.”	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.
177	Conceptual Site Model	Section 8.7	501	S8.S.15	Page 501, Section 8.7 Bioaccumulation, Risk, and Exposure Pathways, first full paragraph after bullets, second sentence: Change the beginning of the sentence from “COPCs in the species consumed by people...” to “A portion of the COPCs in the species consumed by people...”	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.
178	Conceptual Site Model	Section 8.8	506	S8.S.16	Page 506, Section 8.8 Summary, fifth sentence: “As demonstrated in this report, the RI data are sufficient to develop this CSM, which provides the basis for the developing remedial alternatives in the FS.” Revise the sentence as follows: “As demonstrated in this report, the RI data were used to develop this CSM, which will be updated as the RI/FS progresses.	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.
179	Conceptual Site Model	Figure 8-2	--	S8.S.17	Figure 8-2. Revise Figure 8-2 to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surface water and sediment exposure and volatile inhalation for angler</li> <li>• Surface water and subsurface sediment exposure and volatile inhalation for construction worker</li> <li>• Porewater as a pathway for invertebrates</li> <li>• Surface sediment to fish</li> <li>• Surface sediment to bird</li> <li>• Surface water to birds</li> <li>• Mammals, along with lines from sediment/surface water/invertebrates/fish to mammals</li> </ul>	Disagree	Not all of the receptors/pathways listed in the comment are “key” risk receptors and exposure pathways. The intent of the figure is to show the key receptors/pathways that were identified in the risk assessments as posing unacceptable risk.	The response is partially acceptable. Revise the figure to include the key pathways: porewater to invertebrates and sediment to fish.
180	Conclusions	Section 9.2	--	S8.G.1	Section 9.2: The discussion of COPCs in this section includes only the primary contaminants TPCBs, TPAHs, and Cu without any mention of the other contaminants that contribute to risk as described in General Comment No. 1. Where applicable, include a summary of the other risk contributors in this section.	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.
181	Conclusions	Section 9.1	511	S8.S.1	Page 511, Conclusions, Fate and Transport Processes, first paragraph, fourth sentence: Revise the text to read as follows: “Historically, contaminant loads to the surface sediments were likely much greater, as evidenced by the higher contaminant concentrations at the many locations in subsurface sediment.”	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.
182	Conclusions	Section 9.1	511	S8.S.2	Page 511, Conclusions, Fate and Transport Processes, fourth paragraph, first sentence: Revise the text to read as follows: “A key finding of the RI is that contaminant concentrations in the surface sediment layer have likely generally been declining over time.”	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.

**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

183	Conclusions	Section 9.1	512-513	S8.S.3	Section 9.1 pages 512-513, Section 9.2 Groundwater and Sections 6.4.5.2, 8.5.2.3, and 8.6.1.3: It is premature to conclude that groundwater-borne COPC loadings have a negligible impact on the Study Area. FS-stage CF&T modeling and analysis must be conducted before making such a conclusion. The assumptions and analysis approaches supporting this RI conclusion needs to be reevaluated during the FS CF&T modeling efforts, which should include interaction with EPA for discussing and agreeing to the conceptual basis elements, the adjustments to assumed values, and the sensitivity analysis thresholds needed. Results of the CF&T modeling will be discussed with EPA to determine whether they will be incorporated into the final RI report or presented in the FS.	Disagree/Clarification	See response to Comment ID No. 143.	The response is partially acceptable. The conclusion that the groundwater COPC loading have a negligible impact on the Study area should not be made until CF&T modeling is completed. See comments on the responses to comment ID nos. 4 and 143.
184	Conclusions	Section 9.2	517	S8.S.4	Page 517, Section 9.2 Reach-Specific Summary, first paragraph, first sentence: This sentence cites mixing due to biological activity (bioturbation) within the surface sediment as an influence on the nature and distribution of contamination in surface sediment. Revise the document to discuss empirical site-specific evidence supporting the extent and scale of bioturbation as a mechanism influencing surface sediment mixing.	Agree	The text will be modified to be consistent with the discussion of bioturbation presented in Section 4.	The response is acceptable.
185	Conclusions	Section 9.2	517	S8.S.5	Page 517, Section 9.2, Reach-Specific Summary, CM 0–2. The text reads as follows: “The range of surface water concentrations of TPAH, TPCB, and Cu in CM 0–2 overlaps with the range of concentrations measured outside the Study Area in the East River.” Clarify in the text where in the East River the samples being discussed were collected as samples collected in the East River near the mouth of Newtown Creek could be influenced by materials exiting the creek during an ebb tide.	Agree	The text will be modified to be consistent with the discussion of surface water trends presented in Section 4.	The response is acceptable.
186	Conclusions	Section 9.2	517	S8.S.6	Page 517, Section 9.2 Reach-Specific Summary, CM 0–2, third item, last sentence: Revise the sentence as follows: “The East River source in CM 0–2 is sufficiently dominant such that sediment concentrations in this reach are likely to be similar to the East River and reference water bodies influenced by similar CSO, municipal, and industrial stormwater discharges.”	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.
187	Conclusions	Section 9.2	518	S8.S.7	Page 518, Section 9.2 Reach-Specific Summary, third bullet and key findings text box, second bullet: The text states: “Toxicity to benthic macroinvertebrates and risks to other ecological receptors such as fish and crab are similar to the four Phase 2 reference areas.” This statement is not consistent with or supported by the BERA. The four reference areas all had different responses in the laboratory toxicity studies. Fish and crab tissue contaminant of potential ecological concern (COPEC) concentrations were widely variable between the Study Area and the four reference areas. Delete this text or revise it to reflect the comment.	Disagree	This reach-specific summary referenced in this comment is for CM 0–2. Tables 8-13a through 8-13e show clearly that sediment bioassay results for stations in CM 0–2 are similar to the Phase 2 reference areas. In addition, tables in Sections 9 and 10 of the BERA provide comparisons between the Study Area and the four Phase 2 reference areas for fish and crab. These comparisons are on a Study Area-wide basis and are not specific to CM 0–2. Notwithstanding this difference, in many instances, Study Area-wide risks are similar to reference area risks. Table 14-4 in the BERA demonstrates that exposure for many of these receptors is greatest in parts of the Study Area other than CM 0–2. On this basis, the NCG believes that risks in CM 0–2 are, in fact, similar to risks in the four Phase 2 reference areas.	The response is not acceptable. BERA Tables 8-13a through 8-13g clearly show that 10D survival in the CM 0-2 sample locations was significantly different than the Reference Envelope. Revise the text to reflect the comment.



**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

188	Conclusions	Section 9.2	519	S8.S.8	Page 519, Section 9.2 Reach-Specific Summary, Tributaries: Revise the text to read as follows: “Concentrations of some chemicals in surface sediment decline toward the heads of the tributaries, likely due to mixing of solids and contaminants from upstream and downstream sources and differences in settling rate between fine- and coarse-grained solids.”	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.
189	Appendix Bi Phase 2 DSR	Attachment F	--	Bi.S.1	Attachment F (URI.55): The comment response reads as follows: “Field duplicate results were treated as exaggerated, and nondetects were treated as zeroes during the evaluation in Phase 1; however, no data were qualified due to field duplicate results alone. This was a limitation of the automated data validation software (ADR) used for some Phase 1 data. This software was not used during Phase 2, and field duplicates were evaluated as stated in the QAPP. Due to the significant effort required to reevaluate field duplicates when there are no impacts to the data, no further action will be taken.” The response does not adequately address the comment. Provide an explanation of the specific software limitation for Phase 1 data validation described in the response in Appendix Bi under Section 2.2.3 Precision.	Agree	The ADR data validation limitation will be described in Appendix Bi, Section 2.2.3, “Precision.”	The response is acceptable.
190	Appendix Bii FS DSR Part 1	Section 2.3.1	12	Bii.S.1	Page 12, Section 2.3.1 Systematic Data Quality Issues (NCG ID No. 277 and 328): This section should include the discussion of whether POC correction is needed for point source samples. The point source POC data are biased low compared to EPA split sample results. EPA directed the NCG to use a stepwise approach for adjusting the POC data and evaluating its impacts on modeling and point source loading estimates (e.g., use of adjusted and unadjusted data in sensitivity analyses). Include a discussion of the POC data and the path forward for the sensitivity analyses.	Agree	Consistent with Appendix E (the Point Sources Evaluation) of the RI Report, the following text will be added to the DSR:  <i>As summarized in an October 4, 2016 email, USEPA determined that point source POC data are potentially biased low relative to USEPA split-sample data, but there is insufficient information to determine whether either of the datasets are correct or biased. USEPA recommended, as a path forward, adjusting the POC data for the observed difference and conducting a sensitivity analysis to evaluate the effect of key model outputs (e.g., loading), using both the adjusted and unadjusted POC data. In June 2018, USEPA requested that this analysis be presented in the FMRM (Appendix G) and summarized in the RI Report. However, the point source POC data were not used in the FMRM. Because they are used in the partitioning analyses presented in this section, future refined evaluations of partitioning conducted as part of the chemical fate and transport modeling in the FS will include the requested sensitivity analysis.</i>	The response is partially acceptable. The proposed text is acceptable, but should be included in the text of the RI Report.
191	Appendix Bii FS DSR Part 1	Table Bii3-2	--	Bii.S.2	Table Bii3-2: Vertical Hydraulic Gradient results for NC338SP do not match the source table—Table 1 from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) report in Appendix Bii-B1 Groundwater. Resolve this inconsistency or explain the discrepancy in the document.	Disagree	The vertical hydraulic gradient results for NC338SP presented in Table Bii3-2 exactly match those in Table 1 from USGS (2018).	The response is not acceptable. Table 1 from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) report in Appendix Bii-B_Data_1 Groundwater indicates vertical hydraulic gradient results of 0.162/0.110 for NC338; while Table Bii3-2: Vertical Hydraulic Gradient results for NC338SP show 0.116/0.078. The remaining data on the two tables appear to match. Revise the text to resolve this inconsistency or explain it.

**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

192	Appendix Bii FS DSR Part 1	Table Bii4-1	--	Bii.S.3	Table Bii4-1: This table lists 62 shoreline sediment samples, but Table Bii2-3 has 59 samples. Resolve this inconsistency or explain the discrepancy in the document.	Agree	As stated in the notes of Table Bii2-3, field duplicates are not included in the field completeness counts. Table Bii4-1 includes the three field duplicates.	The response is partially acceptable. Ensure that relevant information pertaining to the inclusion/exclusion of field duplicates in data summaries is provided wherever necessary (i.e., in the notes of Table Bii4-1 and in the text).
193	Appendix Bii FS DSR Part 1	Table Bii4-2	--	Bii.S.4	Table Bii4-2: Provide a note indicating the reason for the lower sample count for Aldrin.	Agree	A note will be added referencing Table Bii2-4 and Section 2.3.1 that note the systematic data quality issue that affected aldrin.	The response is acceptable.
194	Appendix Bii FS DSR Part 1	Table Bii4-3	--	Bii.S.5	Table Bii4-3: The table lists 10 samples collected from eight locations, but Table Bii2-3 lists nine samples collected from nine locations. Resolve this inconsistency.	Agree	The table will be revised accordingly.	The response is acceptable.
195	Appendix Bii FS DSR Part 1	Tables Bii5-2 and Bii5-3	--	Bii.S.6	Table Bii5-2 and Bii5-3: These tables have a total of 42 samples (7 + 35) if all sample fractions are counted, or 21 samples (7 + 14) if they are combined. This is not consistent with Table Bii2-3 (20 samples). Resolve this inconsistency or explain the discrepancy in the document.	Agree	As stated in the notes of Table Bii2-3, field duplicates are not included in the field completeness counts. Table Bii5-2 includes the one field duplicate.	The response is partially acceptable. Ensure that relevant information pertaining to the inclusion/exclusion of field duplicates in data summaries is provided wherever necessary (i.e., in the notes of Tables Bii5-2 and Bii5-3 and in the text).
196	Appendix Bii FS DSR Part 1	Table Bii5-3	--	Bii.S.7	Table Bii5-3: Rename the table to include porewater in the title.	Agree	The table will be revised accordingly.	The response is acceptable.
197	Appendix Bii FS DSR Part 1	Table Bii5-4	--	Bii.S.8	Table Bii5-4: Provide a note indicating the reason for the higher sample count for total solids analysis.	Agree	Total solids analysis was additionally conducted on the volatile petroleum hydrocarbon and carbon isotope samples resulting in an additional 14 samples. A note will be added to the table.	The response is acceptable.
198	Appendix Bii FS DSR Part 1	Table Bii5-5	--	Bii.S.9	Table Bii5-5: Provide a note indicating the reason for the lower sample count for sulfate.	Agree	A note will be added to the table.	The response is acceptable.
199	Appendix Bii FS DSR Part 1	Table Bii5-8	--	Bii.S.10	Table Bii5-8: Clarify the days visual observations were collected versus the days that observations were planned. Accompanying text Section 5.4.1, end of third paragraph: State the objective of the visual observation time frame (i.e., during the flux chamber deployment period) and how many days of the total deployment were actually observed.	Agree	The table and text will be revised accordingly.	The response is acceptable.
200	Appendix Bii FS DSR Part 1	Table Bii5-10	--	Bii.S.11	Table Bii5-10: Provide a note indicating the reason why extractable petroleum hydrocarbons (EPH) analysis was conducted on seven of the eight samples and not on all eight samples.	Agree	A note will be added to the table.	The response is acceptable.
201	Appendix Bii FS DSR Part 1	Table Bii5-12	--	Bii.S.12	Table Bii5-12: Provide a note indicating the reason why isotope analysis of carbon dioxide was performed on three of the eight samples and not on all eight samples.	Agree	A note will be added to the table.	The response is acceptable.
202	Appendix Bii FS DSR Part 1	Attach ment Bii-A	--	Bii.S.13	Attachment Bii-A: Deviation Memorandums in this attachment should include all deviations relevant to the activities presented in the data summary report (DSR). This includes Deviation Memorandums Nos. 1, 2, and 3 and deviation forms 4-4, 4-5, 4-6, 4-11, 4-12, and 4-13 from Deviation Memorandum No. 4.	Agree	Deviation Memorandum No. 4 will be added to the attachments.	The response is acceptable.

**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

203	Appendix Bii FS DSR Part 1	Figure Bii6-1	--	Bii.S.14	Figure Bii6-1: Include figures with both Creek Mile 1.7 and English Kills areas scaled to more clearly present the locations.	Agree	The figure will be revised accordingly.	The response is acceptable.
204	Appendix Biii DUA Report	Section 1.2.1	3	Biii.S.1	Page 3, Section 1.2.1 TOC in sediment: “The laboratory reanalyzed all Phase 1 sediment samples using the correct procedure and obtained usable data.” This statement is incorrect. Only 559 of the 793 Phase 1 samples were reanalyzed. Section 4 states that a multiplier (1.56) was developed using the 559 paired original and reanalyzed Phase 1 archived samples and then applied to the 234 original Phase 1 TOC data for which archived samples were unavailable. Revise the text accordingly.	Agree	The text will be revised.	The response is acceptable.
205	Appendix Biii DUA Report	Section 1.2.1	3	Biii.S.2	Section 1.2.1 Systematic Data Quality Issues: Include a discussion of the Aroclor data correction for Phase 1 samples.	Agree	The PCB Aroclor data correction will be discussed in this section.	The response is acceptable.
206	Appendix C NAPL	--	--	C.G.1	While the revised RI includes a more expansive discussion of sheens, the distribution of sheens should be discussed as part of the NAPL assessment discussions. For example, the first sentence on Page 6, Section 1.3 states that “NAPL was not observed in Dutch Kills or Whale Creek sediment” but fails to mention that sheens were observed in both tributaries.	Agree/Clarification	See response to Comment ID No. 8.  With regard to the Section 1.3 sentence referenced in the comment, the text will be revised to note if sheen was observed in areas where NAPL was not observed.	The response is acceptable. See comment on the response to comment ID no. 8.
207	Appendix C NAPL	--	--	C.G.2	In some instances, the approach used to categorize visual observations of NAPL is not applied consistently. For example, photos of NC342SG sediment grab sample collected during the FS Part 1 Gas Ebullition Pilot Study show a layer of NAPL is present in the sediment and an iridescent sheen. The sediment is sufficiently saturated with NAPL to result in NAPL running down the spoon. The field notes categorize this visual observation as “blebs.” Two of the attempts for NC342SG resulted in saturated visual observations; the RI instead notes sheen for four of the five attempts and blebs for one (draft RI Table C3-3). Revise the text and figures to reflect the comment.	Agree	The NC342SC photographs that show visible NAPL are from attempt No. 3. Based on additional review of the NC342SC surface sediment sampling photography, the NAPL observations for NC342SC attempt No. 3 will be changed to “NAPL coated.” The remaining attempts were characterized as having sheen florets and streaks consistent with the photographs. The text, figures, and Table C3-3 will be updated accordingly for NC342SC attempt No. 3.	The response is acceptable.
208	Appendix C NAPL	Section 1.3	5	C.S.1	Page 5, Section 1.3 Program Summary and Key Findings, Category 1B bullet: EPA disagrees with the revised definition of Category 1B. Revise the bullet to exclude “discontinuous” because the categories are based on shake test results that do not provide continuity of information on their own. Multiple lines of evidence are required for an assessment of continuity/discontinuity of NAPL.	Disagree	The NCG agrees that multiple lines of evidence are required to evaluate the potential NAPL continuity/discontinuity within the formation. The use of the term “discontinuous” in this portion of the text pertains to the appearance of NAPL in a given shake test jar, as implied by the first portion of the subject sentence, and its use is appropriate in this context.	The response is partially acceptable. Because the term “discontinuous” is used in the RI to describe the continuity of NAPL among different samples, the use of this term for individual sample observations is confusing. Define Category 1B as follows:  “Category 1B cores contained discrete, residual NAPL”  This is consistent with the Physical Description of Subsurface Sediment and Native Material Key attached to the Phase 2 FSAP Volume 2 (Anchor QEA 2014).

**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

209	Appendix C NAPL	Section 2.1.1	9	C.S.2	Page 9, Section 2.1.1 Phase 1 Field Methods for Describing Visual Observations, second paragraph, third sentence: The text reads as follows: “due to the lack of relationship between Phase 1 and Phase 2 visual observations to support the use of the Phase 1 visual observations in defining NAPL, the Phase 1 visual observations are not included in the evaluation of NAPL in Section 5.” Phase 1 visual observations need to be included in Section 5 discussions to provide a complete picture of all the RI data. While Phase 1 visual observations cannot be directly linked to the presence or absence of NAPL, they can still be used as an additional line of evidence to understand site conditions. Revise the section accordingly.	Disagree	This comment conflicts with the November 8, 2017 discussion with USEPA on the use of Phase 1 visual observations in the RI NAPL evaluation.  Based on the November 8, 2017 discussion, Appendix C was expanded to include a comparison of the Phase 1 visual observations to collocated Phase 2 cores to evaluate whether Phase 1 visual observations relate to Phase 2 NAPL observations (discussed in Appendix C, Section 2.1.1, page 9, second paragraph, and provided in Attachment C-A). During the November 8, 2017 discussion, it was agreed that the Phase 2 NAPL dataset (including the FS NAPL distribution refinement cores and the National Grid sediment cores) will be the basis for the NAPL evaluation and conclusions about NAPL nature and extent.	The response is not acceptable. EPA agrees that the Phase 2 NAPL dataset should be the primary basis for the NAPL evaluation and conclusions about NAPL nature and extent. As acknowledged in EPA’s original comment, Phase 1 visual observations cannot be directly linked to the presence or absence of NAPL; however, discussion of Phase 1 visual observations provides additional evidence relevant to understanding the distribution of sheen in sediment and should be included. See comment on the response to comment ID no. 8.
210	Appendix C NAPL	Section 3.3	31	C.S.3	Page 31, Section 3.3 RI and FS Part 1 Sheen and NAPL Observations, last paragraph, first sentence: The text reads as follows: “In general, visual observations of potential NAPL in sediment were consistent with shake test results.” Provide the total number of visual observations that are consistent/inconsistent with shake test results to support this statement.	Agree	Although the data used to support the statement referenced in the comment are already provided in Table C3-6, the text will be revised to discuss Table C3-6 in further detail.	The response is acceptable.
211	Appendix C NAPL	Section 3.3.2	34	C.S.4	Page 34, Section 3.3.2 Subsurface Sediment, Dutch Kills bullet: It is inappropriate to include the CSO and point source discussion here because other sources are not mentioned for the rest of the surface sediment NAPL observations listed in this section. Revise this bullet by removing the CSO and point source related text.	Agree	CSO and point-source-related information will be removed from the bullet referenced in the comment.	The response is acceptable.
212	Appendix C NAPL	Section 3.3.3	40	C.S.5	Page 40, Section 3.3.3 Native Material: A discussion of NAPL observations in Whale Creek is missing from the bulleted list in this section. Include a bullet point for Whale Creek NAPL observations.	Agree	A bullet will be added to the text to summarize sheen and NAPL observations in Whale Creek native material.	The response is acceptable.
213	Appendix C NAPL	Section 4.1	44	C.S.6	Page 44, Section 4.1 Factors that Affect NAPL Mobility: This section lacks any discussion of ebullition as a process that may mobilize NAPL. Revise the text to discuss ebullition as a process that can mobilize NAPL in sediment.	Agree	A sentence will be inserted into Section 4 identifying the various processes that may mobilize or transport NAPL from the subsurface to the surface water, including gas ebullition, while clarifying that the NAPL mobility investigation work described in Section 4 focuses on NAPL migration by advective flow only. Note, however, that a discussion of gas ebullition, along with other NAPL fate and transport processes, is provided in Section 6.4.7 of the RI Report, and in Appendix C, Section 6.1.3 (pages 108 through 110).	The response is acceptable.
214	Appendix C NAPL	Section 4.1	44	C.S.7	Page 44, Section 4.1 Factors that Affect NAPL Mobility, first bullet, first sentence: The text reads as follows: “NAPL must be interconnected within the larger pores to be mobile.” Mechanisms such as ebullition have the ability to mobilize NAPL even if pores are not saturated. Revise the text to provide clarification that this discussion is specific to the ability of the NAPL to advect as a nonaqueous fluid phase.	Agree	The text will be revised to clarify that this discussion is specific to advection.	The response is acceptable.
215	Appendix C NAPL	Section 4.2.1	46	C.S.8	Page 46, Section 4.2.1 Initial Screening Based on Frozen Core Photography, last paragraph: Provide citations for the discussion of PAH fluorescence.	Agree	Citations regarding PAH fluorescence will be provided.	The response is acceptable.

**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

216	Appendix C NAPL	Section 4.4.1	52	C.S.9	Page 52 Section 4.4.1 FS Part 1 Core Photography: Add text to this section describing what each of the different fluorescence colors observed indicate.	Agree	A discussion of what the colors of fluorescence may indicate about the nature of the fluorescing material will be added to the text.	The response is acceptable.
217	Appendix C NAPL	Section 4.4.1.1	53	C.S.10	Page 53 Section 4.4.1.1 Frozen Core Photography Observations for Sediment, first paragraph, last sentence: The text reads as follows: “It is possible that the dispersed minute specks of fluorescent material observed in all the unfrozen sediment core photographs may represent OPAs.” Delete this sentence or provide additional information that supports why it is believed that fluorescent specks observed are oil-particle aggregates (OPAs).	Agree	The text will be expanded to further describe why it is possible that fluorescent specks observed in UV core photography may be OPAs.	The response is acceptable.
218	Appendix C NAPL	Section 5.1	61	C.S.11	Page 61, Section 5.1 NAPL Evaluation Approach (NRI.195): The sentence “Dynamic processes that may mobilize or transport NAPL and sediment...these include vessel traffic, surface water flow, and navigational dredging.” Revise this sentence to include ebullition in the list of dynamic processes.	Agree	The sentence will be revised to include gas ebullition in the list of dynamic processes.	The response is acceptable.
219	Appendix C NAPL	Section 5.1.1	63	C.S.12	Page 63, Section 5.1.1 Data Used in the NAPL Evaluation, fourth paragraph, third sentence: The text reads as follows: “The methods and terms used to classify visual observations during the National Grid investigations were generally consistent with the Phase 2 methods and terms for classifying visual observations of potential sheen and NAPL.” Add text to this paragraph discussing terms that were not consistent and how they were addressed in evaluating visual observations. For example, how was the National Grid observation of hydrocarbon sludge classified.	Agree	The information and discussion requested is provided in Table C2-2. The text will be updated to include a reference to Table C2-2.	The response is acceptable.
220	Appendix C NAPL	Section 5.3.3	68-70	C.S.13	Pages 68-70, Section 5.3.3 Further Evaluation: EPA disagrees with the use of the phrase “more substantial NAPL impacts” to reference Category 2/3 conditions. Revise all such text to limit the characterization to Category 2/3 NAPL.	Disagree	The referenced text does not use the phrase “more substantial NAPL impacts.” Section 5.3.3, Further Evaluation, uses the phrase “more substantial area of NAPL presence” in the context of the Category 1B Evaluation. Section 5.3.3 discusses the last step in the USEPA-approved Category 1B Evaluation, where “cores that may contain visual observations or shake test results that are not fully characterized, or that may be associated with a more substantial area of NAPL presence” (p. 68, second to last sentence on the page) are evaluated. In this case, “more substantial area of NAPL presence” is not being used to reference Category 2/3 conditions.	The response is partially acceptable. Include clarifying text on what is meant by “more substantial area of NAPL presence” because it is subjective language.
221	Appendix C NAPL	Section 5.3.4	72	C.S.14	Page 72, Section 5.3.4 NAPL Mobility in CM 0–2 Category 1B Areas, first paragraph, last sentence: The text reads as follows: “These findings are consistent with the visual observations of NAPL in CM 0–2, and are consistent with the Category 1B Evaluation conclusion that NAPL, where present in these areas, is limited and immobile.” Results from the NAPL mobility evaluation in other Category 1B areas are not available yet; therefore, this conclusion is premature. Revise this sentence to limit the discussion to CM 0–2 results.	Agree	The text will be revised to clarify the Category 1B Evaluation conclusion that NAPL, where present in CM 0–2, is limited and immobile.	The response is acceptable.

**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

222	Appendix C NAPL	Section 5.4.1.1	74	C.S.15	Page 74, Section 5.4.1.1 Step 1 Identify the Presence of Category 2/3 NAPL Observations and Collect Additional Information (NRI 213): There are sheen observations in all three shake tests above the 3 cm point in NC262SC-A and a visual observation on the core of sheen. Revise the text in Appendix C, Section 5.4.1.1 to note these sheen observations.	Disagree	See response to Comment ID No. 8. The presence of sheen is not relevant to discussion of the extent and delineation of Category 2/3 NAPL (i.e., visual observations of NAPL-coated and NAPL-saturated sediment/native material, and shake test layer results).	The response is partially acceptable. As stated in the comment on the response to comment ID no. 8, observations of sheens should be discussed to provide a broader understanding of sheen distribution. EPA understands that the discussion is part of the Category 2/3 evaluation; however, since the core being discussed does have sheens, it should be noted in the report.
223	Appendix C NAPL	Section 5.4.1.1	75	C.S.16	Appendix C, Page 75, Section 5.4.1.1 Step 1 Identify the Presence of Category 2/3 NAPL Observations and Collect Additional Information (NRI214): It is acceptable to update interpretation of NAPL migration based on the results of the EPA-approved FS NAPL mobility and gas ebullition investigations. Revise the text in Appendix C, Section 5.4.1.1 to mention the contiguous NAPL visual observations from the sediment surface, past the shake test sample depth, and into the native material for core NC048CSC.	Clarification	See response to Comment ID No. 209.	The response is partially acceptable. With proper context, visual observations can be discussed to provide a more complete understanding of observed conditions. See comment on the response to comment ID no. 209.
224	Appendix C NAPL	Section 5.4.1.3	79	C.S.17	Page 79, Section 5.4.1.3 Summary of CM 1.7 Category 2/3 NAPL Evaluation and Mobility Assessment, second paragraph, last sentence. The text reads as follows: “Like the NAPL mobility findings for the CM 0–2 Category 1B Areas, NAPL in the CM 1.7 Area is present at relatively low saturations that are insufficient to produce NAPL mobility.” Provide clarification for what “relatively low” means (i.e. relative to what metric).	Agree	More detail regarding what constitutes “relatively low” saturations will be added to the text.	The response is acceptable.
225	Appendix C NAPL	Section 5.4.2.2	81-88	C.S.18	Pages 81-88, Section 5.4.2.2 Step 2 Characterize the Extent of Category 2/3 NAPL Observations: There are laterally continuous Category 2/3 observations between GPEC-GT14 and NC075SC-A that are not considered. Revise the text in Appendix C, Section 5.4.2.2 to include these observations.	Disagree	The NCG disagrees with the interpretation that Category 2/3 NAPL is laterally continuous between GPEC-GT14 and NC075SC-A. These cores are located nearly 70 feet apart, and without data about conditions between the two cores, we cannot make a conclusion about NAPL continuity or lack thereof. These terms should be used only when data are available to demonstrate that condition. Both of these cores are located within the footprint of the Category 2/3 Areas for both sediment and native material, and the potential for NAPL mobility is being evaluated as part of the FS field investigation.  However, the text describing the cores shown in Figure C5-16j (cross-section 10) will be updated to describe in greater detail NAPL observations in cores located in this cross-section, including GPEC-GT14 and NC075SC-A.	The response is acceptable.
226	Appendix C NAPL	Section 5.4.2.2	82	C.S.19	Page 82, 5.4.2.2 Step 2 Characterize the Extent of Category 2/3 NAPL Observations, third paragraph (cross section 2), last sentence: The text reads as follows: “Variability in the distribution of visual observations relative to the sediment/native material interface elevations suggests that the observations are laterally discontinuous.” Revise the text to include the range of variabilities observed relative to the sediment/native material interface. This also applies to similar text in the first paragraph on Page 83 and last paragraph of Page 85.	Agree	The text will be revised to describe the range of depths at which NAPL was observed relative to the sediment/native material interface.	The response is acceptable.

**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

227	Appendix C NAPL	Section 5.4.2.2	83	C.S.20	Page 83, 5.4.2.2 Step 2 Characterize the Extent of Category 2/3 NAPL Observations, first paragraph, third sentence: If the evidence to reach a conclusion about NAPL continuity is not available, it needs to be clearly stated and the phrase “likely discontinuous” needs to be removed. This comment applies to all other instances where there is insufficient evidence to reach conclusions regarding NAPL continuity.	Agree	The text will be revised to replace “likely” with the words “interpreted to be.” Other instances of “likely discontinuous” in Section 5 will be revised similarly.	The response is acceptable.
228	Appendix C NAPL	Section 5.4.2.2	84	C.S.21	Page 84, Section 5.4.2.2 Step 2 Characterize the Extent of Category 2/3 NAPL Observations, cross section 4 (NRI.247): The text on GPEC-SB110 indicates that the NAPL at approximately –50 feet elevation is laterally discontinuous. The support for this statement is unclear when the core to the west (GPEC-SED03) and all the cores east of GPEC-SB10 terminate at elevations less than –45 feet. Provide more information to support the conclusion that deep native material is laterally discontinuous.	Agree	<p>The conclusion that the NAPL observed in deep native material from approximately -50 to -56 feet NAVD88 at GPEC-SB110 is discontinuous is not based on visual observations at GPEC-SED03. As described in Appendix C, Section 5.4.2.2, page 84 (first full paragraph), there are three cores on cross-section 4 (Figure C5-16d) with Category 2/3 NAPL observations in deep native material: GPEC-SB112, GPEC-SB110, and GPEC-GT12. Two of these cores, GPEC-SB112 and GPEC-SB110, have Category 2/3 NAPL observations at overlapping elevations. The Category 2/3 NAPL observations in deep native material at GPEC-SB112 and GPEC-SB110 are interpreted as discontinuous because two cores (GPEC-GT14 and GPEC-SB111) are located between GPEC-SB112 and GPEC-SB110 that penetrated deeper than -50 feet NAVD88 with no evidence of potential NAPL at depth. The text will be revised to clarify this point.</p> <p>In the upstream (southwest) direction along cross-section 4, there are no cores that penetrate to sufficient depths to delineate Category 2/3 NAPL. Therefore, as stated in Appendix C, Section 5.4.2.2, page 84, first full paragraph, third sentence, “The Category 2/3 NAPL observations at depth in native material were bound laterally in the downstream direction by GPEC-GT20 and <b>conservatively in the upstream direction by the shoreline</b> (see Figure C5-18).”</p>	The response is acceptable.
229	Appendix C NAPL	Section 5.4.2.2	84	C.S.22	Page 84, 5.4.2.2 Step 2 Characterize the Extent of Category 2/3 NAPL Observations, second paragraph, second sentence: The text states that cores GPEC-GT14 and GPEC-SB111 showed no visual evidence of potential NAPL. Based on Figure C5-16d, GPEC-GT14 and GPEC-SB111 indicate that saturated NAPL was observed. Revise the text to reflect the comment.	Clarification	<p>The text referenced in the comment is referring to the presence of NAPL in deep native material (below -45 feet NAVD88).</p> <p>The text will be revised to clarify that cores GPEC-GT14 and GPEC-SB111 show no visual evidence of potential NAPL in native material at depths below -45 feet NAVD88.</p>	The response is acceptable.

**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

230	Appendix C NAPL	Section 5.4.2.3	89	C.S.23	Page 89, Section 5.4.2.3 Summary of Turning Basin Category 2/3 Evaluation and Mobility Assessment, last paragraph, fourth sentence: The text reads as follows: “The depth of the NAPL in the deep native material limits the potential for exposure of deep NAPL to the shallow sediments and surface water. The absence of NAPL in the 7 to 28.5 feet of native material that separated the NAPL in the upper portion of the native material and the deep native material provides evidence that the deep NAPL has not moved upward and is not moving upward.” The discussion of NAPL mobility is not adequately supported. The NCG’s responses to draft RI report comments repeatedly state that assessments of mobility will be finalized after FS NAPL mobility results are available. Conclusions regarding NAPL mobility for cores beyond CM 2 should be deleted from the text until data from NAPL mobility testing are available and have been evaluated.	Agree	<p>The text referenced in the comment was not intended to provide a conclusion regarding NAPL mobility in the Turning Basin, but to offer observations on the potential for NAPL mobility based on the observational data provided in Section 5.4.2.2.</p> <p>The text referenced in the comment will be revised to clarify that “The absence of NAPL in the 7 to 28.5 feet of native material that separated the NAPL in the upper portion of the native material and the deep native material provides <i>empirical</i> evidence that the deep NAPL has not moved upward and is not moving upward.” The following paragraph will be revised to clarify that the final determination of NAPL mobility will be made based on the results of the quantitative NAPL mobility testing for the Turning Basin Category 2/3 Area being performed as part of the FS Part 2 field investigation.</p>	The response is acceptable.
231	Appendix C NAPL	Section 5.4.3.1	90	C.S.24	Page 90, Section 5.4.3.1 Step 1 Identify the Presence of Category 2/3 NAPL Observations and Collect Additional Information (NRI.252): Revise the text in Section 5.4.3.1 to include observations of oil-coated sediment near the top of EK004ASC. Phase 1 visual observations need to be included in discussions as an additional line of evidence.	Clarification	See response to Comment ID No. 209.	The response is not acceptable. See comment on the response to comment ID no. 209.
232	Appendix C NAPL	Section 5.4.3.2	95	C.S.25	Page 95, Section 5.4.3.2 Step 2 Characterize the Extent of Category 2/3 NAPL Observations, cross-section 2. The text states that: “Category 2/3 NAPL was not observed in sediment or native material in the cores on this cross section.” Multiple intervals of sheens and oil-stained sediments were observed in these cores. The Phase 1 visual observations need to be included in discussions as an additional line of evidence.	Clarification	See response to Comment ID No. 209.	The response is not acceptable. See comment on the response to comment ID no. 209.
233	Appendix C NAPL	Section 5.4.3.2	96	C.S.26	Page 96, Section 5.4.3.2 Step 2 Characterize the Extent of Category 2/3 NAPL Observations, cross-section 5: The text states: “However, Category 2/3 NAPL observations were not present in the collocated core.” The collocated core (EK006SC-C) was not deep enough to encounter the Category 2/3 NAPL observations in EK006SC-D. Revise this sentence in the cross section 5 discussion in Appendix C, Section 5.4.3.2.	Agree	The text will be revised to note that NAPL was not observed in the collocated core EK006SC-C, and that EK006SC-C did not encounter the thin sandy silt interval where Category 2/3 NAPL was observed at EK006SC-D.	The response is acceptable.
234	Appendix C NAPL	Section 6	103	C.S.27	Page 103, Section 6 Conceptual Site Model and Summary of NAPL Evaluation: The section discusses a CSM for NAPL in the Study Area but does not mention that during anchoring, dredging, bulkhead repair, etc. NAPL could be mobilized and can migrate to the surface water. Revise the text to include a discussion of such anthropogenic activities that can mobilize NAPL.	Agree	Anthropogenic activities that could transport NAPL from Study Area sediment will be added to the bulleted list of potential NAPL migration mechanisms in Section 6.1.3 (page 108).	The response is acceptable.



**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

235	Appendix C NAPL	Section 6.1	103	C.S.28	Page 103, Section 6.1 Conceptual Site Model and Summary of NAPL Evaluation: This Section should state that the evaluation of NAPL data is not complete. A more complete CSM for NAPL should be presented in the FS when all NAPL mobility data are available, processes such as ebullition-facilitated NAPL migration have been evaluated, and CF&T processes have been evaluated and modeled.	Agree	The last sentence of the first paragraph of Section 6.1 (page 103) currently states that “The CSM will be updated through the RI/FS process as new information becomes available, including completion of the FS Part 2 NAPL mobility study.”  This sentence will be revised to state that “The CSM provides the current understanding of NAPL processes affecting the Study Area and will be updated through the RI/FS process as new information becomes available, including completion of the FS Part 2 NAPL mobility study and FS Part 2 gas ebullition study, and when the chemical fate and transport processes have been evaluated and modeled.”	The response is acceptable.
236	Appendix C NAPL	Section 6.1.1	104	C.S.29	Page 104, Section 6.1.1 Discharges to the Study Area, first paragraph: The historical and current upland operations should not be limited to 2014 information. Information through 2018 should be included in the report. In addition, draft RI Table C5-1 is incomplete. For example, for the Greenpoint former manufactured gas plant, the only historical potential sources identified are spills and underground storage tanks while the ongoing source is “NA.” There is a boom deployed at the site to contain oily seeps. Oily seeps have also been documented at Pratt Oil works, Manhattan Polybag, and Morgan Oil Terminal. Revise the table and text to reflect up-to-date information.	Agree	Table C5-1 will be revised based on the updated upland site summaries provided in Appendix J of the RI Report. In addition, Table C5-1 will also be revised to include observations of seeps reported by others outside of the RI/FS process.	The response is acceptable.
237	Appendix C NAPL	Section 6.1.1	105	C.S.30	Page 105, Section 6.1.1 Discharges to the Study Area, first bullet, last sentence: The text states that sheen and residual NAPL can be found in sediment at the heads of tributaries near several of the CSO outfalls. This is not entirely accurate because residual NAPL is not found ubiquitously near the heads of tributaries as shown in Figure C3-1. Revise the text accordingly.	Agree	The text will be revised to clarify that sheen can be found in sediment at the heads of tributaries near several of the CSO outfalls; additionally, residual NAPL can be found in sediment at the heads of Maspeth Creek and East Branch near CSO outfalls.	The response is not acceptable. Per EPA’s comment, revise the text to indicate that sheens and residual NAPL are not found only near the heads of tributaries. Sheen and residual NAPL observations in cores and shake tests are widely distributed in throughout the creek.
238	Appendix C NAPL	Section 6.1.2	107	C.S.31	Page 107, Section 6.1.2 NAPL Nature and Extent in Study Area Sediment and Native Material, first paragraph, third sentence: There is insufficient evidence to support the statement that historical discharges of NAPL to the creek have “likely been deposited as oil particle aggregate (OPA).” Revise this sentence to clarify that this may be the case because the likelihood of this mechanism has not been evaluated.	Agree	The text will be revised to indicate that historical discharges of NAPL “may have been deposited as oil particle aggregate (OPA).” Note, however, that based on Comment ID No. 217, Section 4.4.1.1 text will be expanded to further describe why it is possible that the fluorescent specks observed in UV core photography may be OPAs.	The response is acceptable.
239	Appendix C NAPL	Figure C5-18	--	C.S.32	Figure C5-18: Since there are no cores between GPEC-SB114 and GPEC-GT20, adjust the Category 2/3 boundary to go from GPEC-SB114 to GPEC-GT20 instead of splitting up the area boundary. This also applies to identical Figure 4-101 in the RI report figures.	Clarification	Two cores contain Category 2/3 NAPL in native material at the downstream (northeast) portion of the Turning Basin: GPEC-GT22 and GPEC-SED20. These two cores are approximately 600 feet apart and separated by two cores (GPEC-GT20 and GPEC-SB114) that do not contain any evidence of potential NAPL in native material. Please clarify on what basis the Category 2/3 boundary in native material should be adjusted to include cores with no NAPL in native material.	The response is not acceptable. The comment does not require that GPEC-GT20 and GPEC-SB114 be included. These cores are already being used to bound Category 2/3 NAPL in this area. The comment requires that the boundary be adjusted to extend from GPEC-SB114 to GPEC-GT20 instead of using the study area boundary. The adjustment is needed to be consistent with the way the boundary was developed in Figure C5-22.

**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

240	Appendix C NAPL	Figure C5-20h	--	C.S.33	Figure C5-20h: The document does not clearly acknowledge the presence of continuous NAPL bodies in the area even though there is a laterally continuous layer between cores EK104SCA, EK094SC-A, and EK103SCA. Revise the text in Appendix C, Section 5.4.3.2 to include this discussion.	Agree	NAPL-saturated material was observed just below the native material interface in EK104SC-A, EK094SC-A (only 10 feet away from EK104SC-A), and EK103SC-A. The text will be revised to acknowledge the presence of Category 2/3 NAPL in the upper portion of the native material, immediately below the sediment/native material interface, in all three of these cores, and that these observations are interpreted as potentially continuous NAPL.	The response is acceptable.
241	Appendix C NAPL	Figures C5-13a and C5- 14	--	C.S.34	Figures C5-13a and C5-14, CM 1.7: The Category 2/3 extent polygon should pass through NC232SC-I and NC358SC-I and not NC281SC-A. NC281SC-A is an inappropriate core to use in bounding Category 2/3 observations because the recovery interval for this core is not at the same elevation as the Category 2/3 impacts in either NC050ASC or NC262SC-A.	Agree	The CM 1.7 Category 2/3 extent in sediment will be adjusted as requested.	The response is acceptable.
242	Appendix C NAPL	Figures C5-16d and C5- 17	--	C.S.35	Figures C5-16d and C5-17 Turning Basin: Cores with impacts at sediment-native interface should not be used to bound Category 2/3 impacts. For example, both GPEC-SED20 and GPEC-GT22 have a saturated interval, which starts at the sediment-native interface, and both are used to bound Category 2/3 observations in soft sediments. The extent of category 2/3 cores should be extended beyond these cores.	Agree	The Turning Basin Category 2/3 extent in sediment will be adjusted as requested.	The response is acceptable.
243	Appendix D Gas Eb	Section 1.1	1	D.S.1	<p>Page 1, Section 1.1 Background, 1st bullet and Section 1.2, Page 3: Revise the text to note the purpose of the FES as noted in the Phase 2 Field Sampling and Analysis Plan – Volume 2 Addendum No. 4, which reads as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Observe surface water for visual evidence of gas ebullition and document observations</li> <li>Develop a preliminary understanding of the site conditions where gas ebullition is most likely to occur</li> <li>Observe surface water for the presence of static and blossoming sheens, visually characterizing sheens, and identify potential sheen sources</li> <li>Visually characterize sheens associated with gas ebullition or otherwise observed in the survey areas</li> </ul>	Agree	The text will be revised accordingly.	The response is acceptable.
244	Appendix D Gas Eb	Section 2.1	5	D.S.2	Page 5, Section 2.1, last sentence: Edit the text (e.g., as a footnote) to note the amount of organic matter found in the referenced non-CSO-impacted coastal sites and identify those portions of the site where organic matter amounts exceed this level. When discussing site organic matter exceedances, also note whether those exceedances occur in surface or subsurface sediments.	Agree	The text will be revised accordingly.	The response is acceptable.
245	Appendix D Gas Eb	Section 3.2.2	19	D.S.3	Page 19, Section 3.2.2, second paragraph: The control sampler used for the study had openings along its length, which allows NAPL migrating because of ebullition next to (but not below) the flux chamber to be captured. Revise the text to read as follows: “This allows differentiation between NAPL/contaminants that originate in the water column (potentially also including NAPL/contaminants released from ebullition that did not occur directly below the flux chamber) from those originating from gas ebullition below the flux chamber.”	Agree	The text will be revised accordingly.	The response is acceptable.

**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

246	Appendix D Gas Eb	Section 4.21	27	D.S.4	Page 27, Section 4.2 NAPL/Contaminant and Gas Flux Study Results: The intention of pilot scale study was to identify approaches for the quantitative FS ebullition investigation, and any quantitative discussion of ebullition-facilitated NAPL and/or contaminant transport should be provided in the FS when the empirical results from the two quantitative ebullition studies are also presented. However, relevant flux chamber data from the pilot study should be clearly presented in the RI for context in interpreting conclusions of the pilot study. Revise the appendix to include tables of the quantitative analytical and sampling results (i.e., mass of measured contaminants, gas volumes) to support the associated text discussions in Section 4.2.	Agree	Pilot study data are included in Appendix Bii, with tables of quantitative analytical and sampling results provided in Attachment Bii-B. A summary of the results will be added as a table to Appendix D.	The response is acceptable.
247	Appendix D Gas Eb	Section 5.1.1.1	34	D.S.5	Page 34, Section 5.1.1.1 Organic Material Inputs, including footnote 4: Delete the carbon 14 (14C) discussion from this section and from elsewhere in the RI report. During the planning process, EPA indicated that the 14C data were not necessary to support evaluation of the gas ebullition pilot test and recommended that the 14C data not be collected. The discussion in the text does not support that 14C the data are relevant to the understanding the nature and extent of contamination or the gas ebullition pilot test results.	Disagree	Collection of this data was included in the USEPA-approved sampling plans and collected consistent with those methods. This comment was not provided by USEPA as part of the comment response process for the pilot study (FS Field Program Work Plan) or FS program (Addendum No. 2), which include 14C analysis. This analysis provides information regarding the source of material being used as a food source during ebullition, which is key to the ebullition component of the CSM. The text will not be revised.	The response is not acceptable. In accordance with an e-mail dated June 11, 2018 from Mark Schmidt of EPA to Amy Corp and Stuart Messur of Anchor QEA, EPA indicated that a determination as to whether the 14C data would be included in future reports would be made at a later date. Per EPA's comment, delete the 14C discussion from Section 5.1.1.1 and from elsewhere in the RI Report.
248	Appendix D Gas Eb	Section 5.2.2	40	D.S.6	Page 40, Section 5.2.2 Effect of NAPL/Contaminant Transport on Surface Water Chemistry: The discussion in this section is based on pilot study results and the ebullition field surveys. The ebullition pilot test was designed to support a decision for the best method to use for the full-scale ebullition study. The surface water data should be presented and evaluated in the FS, where the full FS ebullition study dataset will be presented and evaluated. Delete Section 5.2.2 from the text and any similar discussions from elsewhere in the RI report.	Disagree	For purposes of the RI Report, discussion of the nature and extent of contamination should include consideration of ebullition and its potential effect on surface water concentrations. The text in Appendix D was developed to begin to understand the significance of ebullition on surface water concentrations, and it will be more fully described in the FS. However, this level of assessment is appropriate for inclusion in the RI Report. The text will not be revised.	The response is partially acceptable. Revise the Appendix D Section 1 (Introduction) and Appendix D Section 5 (Evaluation of Gas Ebullition-Facilitated Transport of NAPL/Contaminants) to clearly note that any conclusions drawn from the pilot scale program are subject to revision following analysis of the quantitative ebullition sampling program results.
249	Appendix D Gas Eb	Section 5.5.2.1	42	D.S.7	Page 42, Section 5.5.2.1 Collection Methods, third paragraph: Clarify that the gas tents and sheen frames were positioned close to but not directly over the top of the near-bottom flux chambers.	Agree	The text will be revised accordingly.	The response is acceptable.
250	Appendix D Gas Eb	Figure D5-1	--	D.S.8	Figure D5-1: Revise the figure to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arrows to more clearly show NAPL spreading across the water surface</li> <li>NAPL droplets settling downward from the water surface after spreading</li> <li>Partitioning on to suspended sediment particles after dissolution</li> </ul> Also remove the note concerning "approximately 1 m in depth" as site-specific empirical evidence that ebullition is limited to the top meter of the sediment bed has not been presented to EPA. Note in the text that the site-specific depth of ebullition occurrence has not yet been established by EPA.	Agree/Disagree	An arrow will be added showing the sheen blossom expansion, and OPAs (as described in the text) will be represented. No data have been collected in the Study Area that support the claim that NAPL droplets are settling downward from the water surface. The 1 m in depth will be changed to: "The majority of methanogenesis is expected in shallower sediments, where temperatures are warmest and sediment strengths are weakest."	The response partially acceptable. Include decay and settling of sheens in Figure D5-1.

Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix

251	Appendix E Point Sources	Section 1.2	3	E.S.1	Page 3, Section 1.2 Objectives of the Point Sources Evaluation, first paragraph, second sentence: “This involves evaluating point source and overland flow chemical concentrations and in-creek surface water, surface sediment, and subsurface sediment chemical data to develop an understanding of the role of ongoing sources to current and future contamination in the Study Area.” Revise the text in this paragraph to acknowledge that COPC concentrations in surface water and sediment of the creek are also influenced by other current and historical sources/processes (e.g., East River, groundwater discharge, ebullition). These other sources need to be considered when evaluating point source and overland flow chemical data with respect to surface water and sediment chemical data.	Agree	The text will be revised as requested.	The response is acceptable.
-----	-----------------------------	----------------	---	-------	--	-------	--	-----------------------------

Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix

252	Appendix E Point Sources	Section 2.1.3.1	16	E.S.2	<p>Page 16, Section 2.1.3.1 2015 NYCDEP Point Source Model: Point source loads for CSOs and MS4s should be provided for individual years, not for a period of 5 years which NCG considers to be representative. The CF&amp;T model is being developed for a 21-year period from 1991 to 2012. Rainfall is available for all individual modeled years. The use of more detailed input data will yield more robust analyses.</p>	Disagree	<p>See also the response to Comment ID No. 87.</p> <p>The 5-year average flow rate is used for all categories of point source discharges, not only CSOs and MS4s.</p> <p>The 5-year average flow rate (2008 to 2012) is nearly identical to (and actually slightly lower than) the flow rate for the year 2008. Comment ID No. 87 requested that flows for 2008 be used. For the CFT modeling, 2008 is being used as a representative year for the short-term calibration; this is the same year that NYCDEP used as input in the approved LTCP.</p> <table><tr><th>Year</th><th>Annual Rainfall (inches)</th><th>Total Discharge Volume (MG)</th></tr><tr><td>2008</td><td>47.8</td><td>2,520</td></tr><tr><td>2009</td><td>46.3</td><td>2,150</td></tr><tr><td>2010</td><td>40.3</td><td>2,080</td></tr><tr><td>2011</td><td>65.3</td><td>3,960</td></tr><tr><td>2012</td><td>36.2</td><td>1,650</td></tr><tr><td>5-year average</td><td>47.2</td><td>2,470</td></tr></table> <p>The text can be updated to present this range of flows, but the NCG does not agree with updating the corresponding loading estimates (and associated tables/figures/appendices/etc.). A statement will be added to the report that loads would vary proportionally with the flow. For example, based on the values within the table above, individual loads for a given year could vary within a factor of two to three.</p> <p>Section 4 of Appendix E provides a specific uncertainty evaluation of flows used to estimate point source loads. As stated in Section 4.3, future modeling efforts conducted as part of the FS will explicitly account for yearly variations in flow. Text from Section 4.3 is included below for reference. This text will be updated slightly based on USEPA comments to include more years in the evaluation, but the overall conclusion is unchanged.</p> <p><i>Uncertainties in the flow estimates used to calculate point source loads are primarily due to uncertainties in the geo-neutral point source model parameters which are estimated to be +/- 25% (see Section 3.7 of Appendix G of the RI Report). Annual CSO and stormwater discharges for 2008 through 2012 are well correlated (r squared greater than 0.99 for stormwater and 0.94 for CSOs) with annual rainfall used to calculate loads, see Figure E4-1. Arithmetic average annual rainfall from 2008 through 2012 was used to estimate loads for the RI Report. Arithmetic average annual rainfall from 2008 through 2012 used to calculate loads is representative of a typical year and varies by less than a factor two. Annual rainfall over a longer period (53 years, 1963</i></p>	Year	Annual Rainfall (inches)	Total Discharge Volume (MG)	2008	47.8	2,520	2009	46.3	2,150	2010	40.3	2,080	2011	65.3	3,960	2012	36.2	1,650	5-year average	47.2	2,470	<p>The response is partially acceptable. While the table excerpted from Table G3-1 demonstrates that simulated annual discharge is approximately linearly correlated with precipitation, this correlation does not nullify the value of analyzing and presenting annual loads. The response presents CSO volume for five of the 22 years requested, and omits MS4 discharge estimates. EPA agrees that simulating CSO and MS4 response over the full CF&amp;T performance period will not significantly alter the average annual load fractions presented in the text, but recommends that presenting the 22 years of estimates will allow greater insight into system behavior.</p>
Year	Annual Rainfall (inches)	Total Discharge Volume (MG)																											
2008	47.8	2,520																											
2009	46.3	2,150																											
2010	40.3	2,080																											
2011	65.3	3,960																											
2012	36.2	1,650																											
5-year average	47.2	2,470																											

**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

							<i>through 2015) is more variable (by a factor of three, approximately). To address variability in discharge volumes, when point source loads are evaluated in the FS with the chemical fate and transport model, multi-year simulations will be performed based on long-term precipitation records (consistent with the approach used for the long-term sediment transport model calibration; see Section 5.4.1 of Appendix G of the RI Report).</i>	
253	Appendix E Point Sources	Section 2.2.2.3	28	E.S.3	Page 28, Section 2.2.2.3 Bulk Water Samples, second paragraph: Delete the words “coarse sediment” as an example of what gets excluded from the bulk water samples. Bulk water data show that the grain size distribution (GSD) is not different from the whole water data sample, and footnote 26 does not identify coarse sediment covering the intake holes during sampling.	Agree	Text will be revised as requested in the comment. (Note that there appears to be a typo in the comment. The example in the text refers to materials excluded from whole water samples, not bulk water samples.)	The response is acceptable. As noted in the response, the first sentence of the comment should have referred to whole water samples, not bulk water samples.
254	Appendix E Point Sources	Section 3.1	35	E.S.4a	Page 35, Section 3.1 Estimated Flow Volumes, second Paragraph:  The text does not appropriately represent the magnitude of precipitation in 2011. 2011 did not have “relatively” high precipitation; it is the wettest year on record at La Guardia Airport (LGA) since records began in 1940. The next wettest year was 1983 at 60.8 inches. At Central Park, 2011 had extraordinary precipitation, with the second highest total since 1869. It is also inappropriate to state that the 5-year (2008–2012) period is representative of typical conditions as the 5-year precipitation is at the 83rd percentile among 5-year periods beginning in 1963 at LGA and at the 85th percentile for Central Park. Revise the text to provide a more appropriate representation of the magnitude of 2011 precipitation and 5-year precipitation for the period from 2008 to 2012. This comment also applies to Section 4.1.1 CSO and Stormwater Flows.	Agree	The text will be revised to include more information about the relative wetness of year 2011.  See also response to Comment ID No. 87.	The response is acceptable.
255	Appendix E Point Sources	Section 3.1	35	E.S.4b	There is no rationale for focusing on a single year from the past 53 years. The NYSDEC-approved LTCP uses 2008 as the standard rainfall year. The appendix should be revised to provide a range of loads from all point sources, not just CSO and MS4s, for years over which the CF&T model will be developed, instead of the proposed approach, which includes a very high rainfall year for estimating only annual CSO and MS4 loads.	Disagree/Clarification	This comment does not appear to be correct. Section 3.1 states, “The 2015 geo-neutral point source model was used to estimate the arithmetic average annual CSO and stormwater discharge volumes for 2008 through 2012 for the purpose of load calculations. This 5-year period is representative of a typical range of rainfall conditions (as further discussed in Section 4.1.1).”  This section states that average flow volumes from 2008 through 2012 (not a single year) were used for the purpose of load calculations and also provides information as to why that 5-year range is representative. Additionally, as explained in the response to Comment ID Nos. 87 and 252, the 5-year average flow rate is nearly identical to 2008 (2,470 versus 2,520 million gallons per year).  In addition, a range of values is already presented in the text for other point source discharges in Sections 2.1.3.2 and 2.1.3.3.  See also responses to Comment ID Nos. 87 and 254.	The response is acceptable.

**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

256	Appendix E Point Sources	Section 4.1.1	49	E.S.5	Page 49, Section 4.1.1 CSO and Storm Flows, first paragraph; Page 74, Section 4.3 Summary of Variability and Potential Uncertainties Point Source Load Estimates, second paragraph, first sentence; and page 84, Section 6, third paragraph: Appendix G, Section 3.9 identifies uncertainty in CSO flows as $\pm 30\%$ , but text says $\pm 25\%$ . Resolve this inconsistency and revise the text accordingly.	Agree	The text of Appendix E will be updated to be consistent with Appendix G.	The response is acceptable.
257	Appendix E Point Sources	Section 4.1.1	49	E.S.6	Page 49, Section 4.1.1 CSO and Storm Flows, second paragraph: Explain in the text the significance of using the 53-year period, beginning 1963, to confirm that the 2008 through 2012 period is representative of typical precipitation conditions. LGA has digital hourly records since 1948 and daily data since 1940; Central Park has an even longer period of record.	Agree	This evaluation will be updated to include a longer time frame, and the text will be updated accordingly.	The response is acceptable.
258	Appendix E Point Sources	Section 4.1.1	49	E.S.7	Page 49, Section 4.1.1 CSO and Storm Flows, second paragraph and Figure E3-1: Explain why Figure E3-1 is for Central Park, whereas Figure G3-19 and all discussion in RI Appendix G is for LGA. Central Park receives 5 inches more precipitation per year than LGA. The implications of this difference for the analyses should be discussed in the text.	Agree	The evaluation will be updated to include LGA data.	The response is acceptable.
259	Appendix F Groundwater	--	--	F.G.1	The draft RI Tier 1 estimation of the groundwater budget should be made more consistent with the Tier 2 and Tier 3 analyses and thus with the seepage metering data.	Disagree	See response to Comment ID No. 43.	See comment on the response to comment ID no. 43.
260	Appendix F Groundwater	--	--	F.G.1a	The USGS (Misut and Monti) groundwater flow model is used appropriately in Appendix F, Section 4.1 to simulate the capture zone of the MTA Marcy/Crosstown dewatering, as shown in RI Figure F4-1. However, in Section 5.1.1.1, the model is used in a generalized way to assess groundwater recharge, where an average of the recharge simulated for the entire model is used in Figure F5-1 as a data point in the graph of recharge to impermeable cover. However, because the Misut and Monti model uses geographically varied recharge, including specific values for the Newtown Creek groundwater recharge area, those values should be considered in the development of tier-based estimates/comparisons and in selecting the range of values for conducting sensitivity analyses.	Agree	Spatially varying recharge estimates extracted from the Misut and Monti groundwater flow model will be considered in the tiered groundwater evaluation and incorporated into the RI Report as an additional Tier 1 sensitivity analysis.	The response is acceptable.

**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

261	Appendix F Groundwater	--	--	F.G.1b	<p>The draft RI assumes, based on Buxton and Shernoff 1995, that New York City water mains and sewers contribute two-thirds of the recharge to groundwater. Besides NYCDEP providing information that annual surveys of water mains only find about 1 million gallons per day (MGD) of water leakage (draft RI footnote 18 of Appendix F dismisses this information without reason*), fluoride data collected by the USGS show that it is highly unlikely that two-thirds of the groundwater originates from leaking water mains and sewers. In accordance with Article 141.08 of the New York City Health Code, New York City has fluoridated the water in its system to 1 milligram per liter (mg/L) since 1964. The USGS has collected groundwater samples from wells throughout Brooklyn and Queens and analyzed them for fluoride for decades. Fluoride is a generally conservative tracer, which like chloride, requires extraordinary measures to remove from water. If the city water mains and sewers were contributing two-thirds of the groundwater recharge, the groundwater should have a ubiquitous fluoride concentration significantly higher than natural background/detectability and approaching 1 mg/L. However, data from the USGS show that at almost all locations, fluoride is undetected or near undetected (less than 0.2 mg/L).</p> <p>* Although the available NYCDEP annual reports over many years show that leakage from water mains at any given time is only about 1 MGD, the draft RI Appendix F footnote 18 states: “Information on NYC’s water conservation program is publicly available. However, details regarding potential recharge to the groundwater aquifer as a result of water main leaks are not included in this information to assess its applicability to estimating artificial returns in the PGCA.” However, the annual reports document that there is at most 1 MGD of leakage from water mains determined from system surveys; given this documented quantification of leakage from water mains, the draft RI should not rely solely on the value estimated in Buxton and Shernoff, which is based on a single letter from the Jamaica Water Supply Company in the early 1980s.</p>	Clarification	<p>As noted in RI Report Appendix F, Footnote 18, details regarding potential recharge to the groundwater aquifer as a result of water main leaks are not included in the reports provided by NYCDEP, and thus the applicability/relevance of the claimed “1 million gallons per day (MGD)” of water leakage to the PGCA cannot be appropriately assessed. If the USEPA disagrees with this conclusion, the NCG requests that the agency provide the page, table, figure, etc., numbers from which such information can be found in the report(s) provided by NYCDEP. Anchor QEA’s interpretation of “1 MGD” is that it represents the quantity of water estimated to have been “saved” as a result of water main repairs, which does not translate to the amount of leakage.</p> <p>Nonetheless, the NCG will add a Tier 1 sensitivity analysis using 1 MGD as the annual leakage from water mains within the PGCA.</p> <p>With regard to USGS fluoride data, although this comment suggests that fluoride is a “generally conservative tracer,” the NCG disagrees that fluoride is necessarily conservative in saline environments because of potential geochemical reactions (e.g., with dissolved phosphate). If USEPA requires assessment of fluoride data collected by the USGS, please provide the appropriate report citations so that the NCG can evaluate the applicability of the USGS data collection locations and assess their applicability for the PGCA in the RI Report.</p>	<p>First portion of response: The response is partially acceptable. EPA will request that that New York City provide any new or additional data and/or information that is relevant to infiltration/ Inflow (I/I) in the Newton Creek area. If such data and/or information is available, EPA will provide it to the NCG for consideration in the evaluation of groundwater recharge estimates. If such data and/or information is not available or is not provided, then the current estimate of groundwater recharge from I/I will not need to be revised.</p> <p>Second portion of the response: The response is partially acceptable. While fluoride is a generally conservative tracer and, where water is fluoridated, has been used as a tracer in hydrogeologic studies, EPA agrees that the use of fluoride as a tracer for evaluating I/I is limited. Saline water (seawater), which has infiltrated into groundwater in Kings and Queens Counties due to historical pumping, contains levels of fluoride (1.2 to 1.5 mg/L) that could confound use of fluoride as a reliable tracer for evaluating infiltration from water supply pipes. Although Buxton and Shernoff, 1995, indicate that elevated levels of fluoride at some locations (up to about 1 mg/L) may be related to infiltration from water supply pipes, the fluoride levels they reported were generally in the range 0.1 to 0.4 mg/L. The fluoride data in Buxton and Shernoff, 1995, should be reviewed to determine if there is value in evaluating fluoride data to determine infiltration from water supply pipes.</p>
-----	---------------------------	----	----	--------	---	---------------	---	--



**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

262	Appendix F Groundwater	Section 3.7.2.1	33	F.S.1	Page 33, Section 3.7.2.1, and RI Section 6.4.1 and subsequent sections utilizing calculations: These sections describe estimation of dissolved-phase concentrations for TPAH and TPCB to be utilized in contaminant loading calculations. The method selected uses a site-specific K <sub>d</sub> that was calculated using data generated in the upper sediment layers. This is not appropriate for estimating the dissolved phase concentrations in native materials. These estimated concentrations, which feed into groundwater loading calculations, should be based on K <sub>oc</sub> rather than K <sub>d</sub> because of differences such as OC content, soot carbon content, and NAPL of the native materials compared to the upper sediment layers. Revise the calculations and subsequent RI report sections, figures, and tables that use the estimated concentrations or use both methods for calculating estimated dissolved concentrations. If both methods are used, the results and subsequent use of those results in loading calculations must be presented as ranges of values in the RI. The contributions of chemicals from groundwater discharge in the Study Area will be further evaluated as part of the chemical fate and transport model that is under development for the FS.	Agree	Both the K <sub>d</sub> -based and K <sub>oc</sub> -based estimated dissolved phase concentrations and resulting chemical loads will be presented in the RI Report as ranges. See also response to Comment ID No. 41.	The response is acceptable.
263	Appendix F Groundwater	Sections 5.1.2.3 and 5.1.3, Tables F2-2 and F5-6	60-62	F.S.2	Pages 60 and 61, Section 5.1.2.3, Tables F2-2 and F5-9, pages 60-61 and Section 5.1.3 on pages 61-62: The impact on the Tier 1 groundwater balance from the wastewater collection system should be based on more recent investigations and reporting than the Greeley and Hansen (1982) report. By incorporating more recent reporting by/for the NYCDEP regarding infiltration and inflow (I/I), it is likely that the Tier 1 water balance will be more in line with the results from Tier 2 and Tier 3. Revise the RI accordingly.	Clarification	More recent reporting regarding infiltration and inflow (I/I) has been repeatedly requested by the NCG from NYC but has yet to be provided. NCG made such requests at the October 12, 2017 meeting with USEPA and via emails to USEPA on November 13 and December 13, 2017. If such information exists and can be provided in a timely manner that does not delay finalization of the RI Report, then the NCG will consider such information, as appropriate.	The response is partially acceptable. EPA will request that that New York City provide more recent investigation data and/or reports regarding infiltration/Inflow (I/I) in the Newton Creek area. If such information and/or reports are provided, they should be considered, and if appropriate, incorporated into the Tier 1 water balance. If such information and/or reports are not available or cannot be provided in a timely manner, the Tier 1 water balance does not need to be revised.
264	Appendix F Groundwater	Sections 5.3.3.1.2 and 5.3.3, Table F5-13	74-75	F.S.3	Sections 5.3.3.1.2 and 5.3.3 on pages 74-75, and Table F5-13: Significant variations and some ranges in Tier 3 groundwater flow related estimates of calibrated hydraulic conductivity and transmissivity and equivalent recharge, including large contrasts from segment to segment, need to be resolved. For example, the equivalent recharge estimates range from 0.69 to 25 inches per year, and the calibrated hydraulic conductivity estimates range from 7.6 to 210 feet per day even though the segments' characteristics do not appear to vary over such wide ranges. The contrasts are especially evident when comparing certain segments that are adjacent to each other yet their land cover and hydrogeologic characteristics are similar.	Clarification	See response to Comment ID No. 43.	See comment on the response to comment ID no. 43.
265	Appendix F Groundwater	Attachment K Section 2.4	6	F.S.4a	Section 2.4 Boundary Conditions: This section indicates that a specified head boundary was used to represent the water table and lays out the process for developing that boundary.  General: Explain why the existing potentiometric surfaces, developed and documented in Appendix F (Section 4), were not used.	Agree	A statement will be added to explain the rationale for using the Dupuit equation, instead of the interpolated potentiometric surface, to define the specified head boundary.	The response is acceptable.

**Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix**

266	Appendix F Groundwater	Attachment K Section 2.4	6	F.S.4b	Page 6: The text indicates that within 500 feet of the creek, a specified head boundary at the water table was replaced by a specified flux boundary to prevent model artifacts. The report should document the flux simulated along this 500-foot length of specified head boundary. Explain how this flux compares to the flux assigned to the other portions of the cross section.	Agree	The specified flux within 500 feet of the creek and a comparison with the flux assigned to other portions of the cross-section will be added to Section 2.4.	The response is acceptable.
267	Appendix F Groundwater	Attachment K Section 2.4	6	F.S.4c.i	Page 6, second paragraph: This paragraph indicates that the specified head boundary is replaced by a specified flux boundary.  Provide further explanation about why the specified head boundary was replaced with a specified flux boundary. Discuss how this impacts the sensitivity analysis.	Agree	An explanation for replacing the specified head boundary with a specified flux boundary will be added to Section 2.4, within the context of the sensitivity analysis.	The response is acceptable.
268	Appendix F Groundwater	Attachment K Section 2.4	6	F.S.4c.ii	Provide the flux and equivalent recharge rates for each cross section. Discuss how they compare with recharge rates calculated for the segments with other approaches in the report.	Agree	Comparison of simulated recharge rates and Tier 3 equivalent recharge rates for each cross-section is presented in Table F-K-9 and discussed in Section 3.2 of Attachment F-K. Simulated flux for each cross-section will be added to Table F-K-9.	The response is acceptable.
269	Appendix F Groundwater	Attachment K Section 3.1	9	F.S.5	Page 9, Section 3.1 Groundwater Discharge to the Creek: This section shows that the discharge to the creek is based on 10 equal sections of the wetted perimeter. This approach means that the vertical seepage faces are varying percentages of the segments nearest the shoreline. Explain how the seepage in each one of these segments is split between the vertical seepage face and the creek bottom.	Agree	Explanation will be added to Section 3.1 indicating that lateral discharge is calculated directly from cross-sectional model output by summing the discharge across the vertical seepage face that corresponds to vertical permeable shoreline structure, instead of splitting the seepage across the section nearest the shoreline.	The response is acceptable
270	Appendix F Groundwater	Attachment K Section 3.1	9	F.S.6	Section 3.1 Groundwater Discharge to the Creek, Model 1 negative seepage rate, Cross-section 1: Forcing drawdown on the Queens side conflicts with the water table mapping within the tier approach, which shows discharge from groundwater in that area, thus, conflicting with the USGS seepage value at NC273SP. Provide other information sources and corresponding data that support a negative seepage rate in this area.	Disagree	The USGS groundwater seepage measurement at Location NC273SP is a negative value (i.e., downward seepage). There are no water level data in the Fill or UGA in the immediate vicinity of NC273SP.	The response is partially acceptable. The water table mapping (Figure F-K-1) disagrees with the negative seepage shown on the Cross-Sectional Model 1 (Figure F-K-7) and measured at NC273SP. If there are no water level data in the fill or UGA in the immediate vicinity of NC273SP, explain what the water table mapping in Figure F-K-1 was based on. Figure F-K-2 shows areas where groundwater is below 0 which correspond to negative seepage rates. Revise Figure F-K-1 to reflect the impact to the water table evidenced by the negative seepage.
271	Appendix F Groundwater	Attachment K Section 3.2	11	F.S.7	Page 11, Section 3.2 Recharge Rate in Upland Areas, last sentence: This sentence states that the simulated recharge rates in the cross-sectional models are generally similar to the Tier 3 equivalent net recharge rates. However, in several cases, the differences between the values are factors of two or more. Delete the last sentence and add a discussion that puts the recharge rates into context according to expected ranges of recharge based on the upland land uses or regional calculated recharge rates. Add a discussion describing how variations in overall recharge would impact the models and estimated seepage calculations. These discussions are important because they should also trigger similar discussions in the RI report due to widening the range of the estimated values of overall flux and mass loading to the Newtown Creek Study Area.	Agree	Discussion of the simulated recharge rates will be added to Section 3.2.	The response is acceptable. Delete the last sentence per the comment.

Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix

272	Appendix F Groundwater	Figures F-K-7 through F-K-27	--	F.S.8	Figures F-K-7 through F-K-27: Add horizontal and vertical scales on these cross section figures.	Agree	Horizontal and vertical scales will be added to these figures.	The response is acceptable.
273	Appendix F Groundwater	Figures F5-13 through F5-18	--	F.S.9	Figures F5-13 through F5-18: The pattern of saline surface water impacts on groundwater affected by induced infiltration is not as clear as would be expected; therefore, it is unclear whether induced infiltration is as strong and widespread along this reach of the Study Area. The RI should address the possibility that induced infiltration may only affect a portion of the reach along which the RI now assumes induced infiltration is occurring. Also, it is difficult to evaluate how impacted are the monitoring and extraction wells with higher values of chloride, salinity, and specific conductivity because the red-colored ones have such a broad range of values.	Disagree	<p>The conclusion that the central portion of the Study Area between CM 1.4 and 2.0 is a losing reach is supported by multiple, converging lines of evidence: 1) USGS seepage measurements; 2) USGS vertical hydraulic gradient measurements; 3) vertical hydraulic gradient data from a long-term monitoring station; 4) negative groundwater elevation measurements at upland monitoring wells on both sides of the creek (see Figure F3-11); and 5) upland groundwater remediation wells extracting 660 gpm on the south side the creek (see Figure F4-9), which induce infiltration from the Study Area along this reach of the creek. These data support the interpretation that the zone of negative seepage is extensive. The data collected within this area consistently support this interpretation and do not provide evidence for any areas of exception.</p> <p>The purpose for evaluating groundwater salinity in this area was to determine whether the interpretation of negative seepage is reasonable based on a simple “binary” assessment, rather than a quantitative one. At USEPA’s request, the available data were reviewed and presented in the referenced figures.</p> <p>The resulting data demonstrate mixing of saline water with fresh water within the UGA along this reach of the Study Area, and the data are consistent with the interpretation of induced infiltration from the creek. A large range of chloride concentrations and specific conductance values was observed but should be expected because of the following factors: 1) the heterogeneity of the underlying native deposits; 2) different pumping rates at upland extraction wells; 3) different pumping durations that have elapsed at each recovery well; 4) each well’s proximity to the Study Area and recovery wells; 5) dispersion; and 6) diffusion.</p> <p>With regard to the binning of the data, the method used in the referenced figures is consistent with that used throughout the RI Report.</p>	<p>The response is partially acceptable. The data supports the conclusion that the central portion of the Study Area is a net losing reach. However, as shown in Figure F3-11, there are locations in between CM 1.4 and CM 2.0 with positive groundwater elevation measurements at upland monitoring wells. Therefore, there may be places along this stretch where water is discharging from the groundwater to Newtown Creek. While this groundwater will likely not significantly impact the flow balance and salinity measurements, it may be a source of contamination. Future modeling should leave open the possibility that groundwater based contamination may be entering the Creek.</p>

Note:  
1 = Remedial Investigation Report, dated April 2019, was submitted to USEPA. Comments were received from USEPA by e-mail on September 19, 2019, at 12:42 p.m. Eastern Time.

Category Key:  
Agree = Agree with this comment.  
Disagree = Disagree with this comment.  
Clarification = Response provides clarification to the comment or clarification on the comment is requested.

Acronyms:

Newtown Creek  
Remedial Investigation Report<sup>1</sup> Comment and Response Matrix

2,3,7,8-TCDD = 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin  
ADR = automated data validation software  
CFT = chemical fate and transport  
CM = creek mile  
cm = centimeter  
Cs-137 = cesium 137  
CSM = conceptual site model  
CSO = combined sewer overflow  
Cu = copper  
DAR = Data Applicability Report  
DO = dissolved oxygen  
DSR = Data Summary Report  
ES = Executive Summary  
FMRM = *Final Modeling Results Memorandum*  
FS = Feasibility Study  
FS FSAP = *Feasibility Study Field Sampling and Analysis Plan*  
G = gravity  
gpm = gallons per minute  
K<sub>d</sub> = partition coefficient  
K<sub>oc</sub> = organic carbon partition coefficient  
LGA = La Guardia Airport  
LTCP = Long-Term Control Plan  
m = meter  
MAM2 = Modeling Approach Memorandum (2)  
MAM3 = Modeling Approach Memorandum (3)  
MDL = method detection limit  
mg/kg = milligrams per kilogram  
MGD = million gallons per day  
MS4 = municipal separate storm sewer system  
NAPL = nonaqueous phase liquid  
NAVD88 = North American Vertical Datum of 1988  
NCG = Newtown Creek Group  
NYC = New York City  
NYCDEP = New York City Department of Environmental Protection  
OC = organic carbon  
OPA = oil particle aggregate  
PAH = polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon  
Pb-210 = lead-210  
PCB = polychlorinated biphenyl  
PGCA = potential groundwater contribution area  
POC = particulate organic carbon  
propwash = propeller wash  
r<sup>2</sup> = coefficient of determination  
RI = remedial investigation  
RI/FS = Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study  
RI Report = *Remedial Investigation Report*  
TOC = total organic carbon  
TPAH = total polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons  
TPCB = total polychlorinated biphenyls  
UGA = Upper Glacial Aquifer  
USEPA = U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
USGS = U.S. Geological Survey  
UV = ultraviolet